

Acta Haematologica

International Journal of Haematology · Journal International
d'Hématologie · Internationale Zeitschrift für Hämatologie

Gegründet 1948 von K. RONA † Zürich, und G. ROSENOW New York

Organe Officiel de la Société Européenne d'Hématologie

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Oslo

Familial Vitamin B₁₂ Malabsorption

By OLGA IMERSLUND AND PÅL BJØRNSTAD

One of us (7) has formerly described 10 patients suffering from chronic relapsing megaloblastic anaemia with onset in infancy and childhood. Eight of the patients also had permanent proteinuria without other signs of impaired renal function. There was a familial occurrence of the syndrome: chronic relapsing megaloblastic anaemia and permanent proteinuria. These patients seemed to represent a specific, selective vitamin B₁₂ malabsorption disease which had not been recognized as such before. The disease (and the syndrome) was assumed to be congenital and hereditary.

The purpose of the present work has been to re-examine the 10 patients in order to attempt clarifying the pathogenesis and for this object we have used radioactive Co-labelled vitamin B₁₂.

Methods

The absorption of radioactive B₁₂ has been measured by the method of SCHILLING (9). The assays have been performed in the standard manner using Co⁵⁸ labelled vitamin B₁₂ made by Philips "Duphar". Each oral test-dose has contained 1 microgram vitamin B₁₂ with specific activity of 1 $\mu\text{Ci}/\mu\text{g}$. The radioactivity has been counted in urine collected in 24 hours.

The process of intrinsic factor: First an ordinary SCHILLING test has been performed. Then the test has been repeated after an intrinsic factor concentrate was added to the oral test-dose. Finally the intrinsic factor activity of the gastric juice has been tested in bioassays on proved cases of pernicious anaemia (PA). From each patient a sample of 80 ml. neutralized gastric juice was administered by stomach tube as PA patient immediately after an oral test-dose Co⁵⁸ B₁₂ and the amount of B₁₂ radioactivity appearing in the urine during the next 24 hours was determined.

The intrinsic factor concentrate (IFC) was prepared by Abbot Laboratories from deduced hog stomach. The IFC had been proved effective in assays on known PA.

The gastric juice from our patients was collected after intramuscular injection of 0.5 mg. histamine and filtered through gauze. pH was immediately adjusted to 10 with N NaOH to inactivate pepsin and after 20 minutes titrated to pH 7 with N HCl. The juice was kept frozen at -20 °C until just before use.

Antibiotics, aureomycin or achromycin 250 mg. were given perorally 3 times daily for 5 days. The SCHILLING tests were performed after 4 days of treatment.

Proctosine, 10 mg. was given perorally 3 times daily for 6 days.

The SCHILLING tests were performed after 5 days of treatment.

Other laboratory methods were those described by IMERLUND (7)

Material

The material consists of 6 males and 4 females. In the present paper they have the same designation as before with Roman numbers. They belong to 6 different sibships and families designated as A, B, C, D E and F (table I). Only siblings are affected, no parents or other relatives. No consanguinity has been demonstrated between the parents. However 3 couples have their origin from relatively isolated valleys in Norway.

The onset of symptoms was from 5-6 months to 4 years of age (table I)

Table I

Age when symptoms started and when anaemia and protenuria were discovered.

Family	Patient No.	Age	Age when symptoms started years	Age when anaemia was discovered years	Age when protenuria was discovered years
A	I ♂		1 1/13	1 1/13	2 2/13
	II ♂		1 1/13	1 1/13	1 1/13
B	III ♂*		4 1/13	4 1/13	
C	IV ♂		1 1/13	2	2
	V ♀		1 1/13	1 1/13	1 1/13
	VI ♀		1 1/13	1 1/13	1 1/13
D	VII ♀		1 1/13	1 1/13	1 1/13
	VIII ♂		1	1 1/13	1
E	IX ♀		1 1/13 (11/13?)	2	2
F	X ♂		1 1/13	1 1/13	

A sister died from megaloblastic anaemia at the age of 5 2/13 years.

Symptoms and signs were such as are seen in vitamin B₁₂ deficiency. Pallor, weakness, irritability, gastrointestinal symptoms, glossitis or atrophic tongue, loss of appetite, tendency to constipation or slight diarrhea. Slight or doubtful neurological changes were observed in three patients and premature greying of the hair in one.

Hematological findings: The anaemia was macrocytic with FAULSTICH curves of asymmetric heterogeneous type similar to those seen in pernicious anaemia. Tendency to moderate leukopenia, granulocytopenia and occasional thrombopenia was observed. The serum iron was with few exceptions increased, the icterus index normal or slightly increased. The bone marrow showed typical megaloblastosis with giant myelocytes and "stabcells".

Findings in the urine: Eight of the 10 patients (table I) had permanent protenuria (from trace to 2+) with minimal microscopic findings. By the concentration tests specific gravity was 1027-1036. Urea and creatinine clearances were within normal range.

Urinary tract anomalies. Five of the 10 patients had urinary tract anomalies of relatively homogeneous appearance which was regarded as representing different stages of duplication of the urinary pelvis and ureter from slight to complete.

Gastric juice. Free hydrochloric acid was present in all aspirated EWALD test meals except once in one patient and always in gastric juice separated after injection of

histamine. The quantities of microbiologically determined vitamin B₁₂ binding factor in the gastric juice were normal.

Personally administered small amounts of vitamin B₁₂ + normal pooled human gastric juice did not produce any rise of haemoglobin and red blood cells (experiments carried out in 3 patients).

Vitamin B₁₂ in plasma examined partly in remission and partly in relapse was decreased and varied between 15–448 μ g./ml.

Stools. Several examinations for ova and parasites were negative. Fat balance tests showed normal absorption of fat, varying between 91–99%.

Glucose tolerance curves were normal.

Gastrointestinal X-rays after Ba contrast were normal.

Response to treatment with vitamin B₁₂. Intramuscular injections of vitamin B₁₂ induced typical haematological reaction and remission. Monthly injections of 50–100 micrograms of vitamin B₁₂ have maintained remission and well-being until the present time. Without specific antipernicious treatment the anaemia has always relapsed.

Present Investigation

The age of the patients varied from 7–25 years (table II). They were well. Growth and development were normal. Thus 7 of them were taller than the average and 3 of them shorter the shortest being in the 25 percentile. The intelligence was normal judged by their achievements in school and later on. No definite abnormalities were detected at the physical examination except for premature greying of the hair in the oldest patient. There was no hypertension or enlargement of the heart. There were no neurological symptoms or signs.

The haemoglobin, red and white blood cell count and the differential count were within normal range.

Findings in the urine. Eight of the 10 patients had proctinuria as before (from trace to 1%) with minimal microscopic findings and no growth by bacteriological examination. At the electrophoretic examinations the urinary proteins consisted mainly of albumin.

Renal function. By concentration tests the specific gravity rose to 1029–1038. The serum creatinine was normal.

Gastric juice. The volume was normal when compared with material of healthy individuals from the same age groups. pH varied between 1–2.

Serum proteins were normal (electrophoresis).

Results

The results of the SCHILLING tests are seen in table II. The data represent the percentages of the oral test-dose Co⁵⁷ B₁₂ excreted in the urine in 24 hours. Without intrinsic factor material the patients excreted between 0 and 1.4 % of the test-dose given. When IFC was added to the test-dose there was no significant increase in the excretion. There was no increase in the excretion after sterilization of the gut with achromycin (given to 5 patients). There was no increase in the excretion after prednisone therapy (given to 3 patients).

Table II
The results of the SCHILLING tests in our patients.

Pat. No.	Age Years	% excretion of oral test dose $\text{Co}^{57}\text{B}_{12}$ in urine in 24 hours			
		Without IFC	With hog IFC	After achromycin therapy	After prednisone therapy
I	23	1.2	1.0		
II	7	1.3	1.9	0.4	
III	19	0.6	1.0		
IV	19	0	0		
V	14	0	0	0.2	
VI	14	0.2	0.2		0
VII	19	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1
VIII	14	0.2	0.2		
IX	12	1.4	0.4	0.5	
X	11	0	0.3	0.8	0.3

Table III
The results of the SCHILLING tests in pernicious anaemia patients.

PA	% excretion of oral test dose $\text{Co}^{57}\text{B}_{12}$ in urine in 24 hours		
	Without IFC	With hog IFC	With gastric juice from our patients
T H.	0.8	10.0	10.4 (No. I)
L. H.	0.2	14.7	12.0 (No. II)
S. M.	1.3	13.6	19.0 (No. III)
F N.	0.8	13.8	17.4 (No. IV)
T H.	0.8	10.0	12.0 (No. V)
F N.	0.8	13.8	13.0 (No. VI)
T H.	0.8	10.0	14.0 (No. VII)
R. S.	1.5	16.6	14.0 (No. VIII)
J M.	0.9	16.3	11.0 (No. IX)
R. T.	0.8	13.0	11.8 (No. X)

Table III demonstrates the intrinsic factor activity of the patients "gastric juice when tested on different PA patients. Without administration of intrinsic factor the PA patients excreted 0.2—1.5 / of the test-dose given. When hog IFC was added the excretion rose to 10—16.6 %. When the PA patients were given the test-dose $\text{Co}^{57}\text{B}_{12}$ + the gastric juice from our patients the PA patients excreted between 10.4—19.0 / of the test-dose. Thus the intrinsic factor activity in the gastric juice was normal when tested on proved pernicious anaemia.

At all investigations the results were the same in the patients with proteinuria as in those without. Treatment with antibiotics had no effect on the occurrence of proteinuria.

Discussion

The vitamin B₁₂ deficiency is demonstrated by the megaloblastic bone marrow, the low level of plasma vitamin B₁₂, and the therapeutic response to intramuscular injections of vitamin B₁₂. The results of the SCHILLING test demonstrate that the cause of the vitamin B₁₂ deficiency is decreased absorption from the gastrointestinal tract.

With regard to the pathogenesis we have to consider the following known causes of impaired absorption of vitamin B₁₂.

1. *Lack of intrinsic factor* can be excluded as the gastric intrinsic factor activity is normal in bioassays on proved PA, a finding which fits with the negative response in our patients after IFC was added to the oral test-dose Co⁵⁷ B₁₂.

2. *Utilization of the vitamin by intestinal micro-organisms and parasites* can be excluded. There was no increase in the absorption of the radioactive labelled vitamin B₁₂ after treatment with antibiotics. No ova or parasites have been found in the stools.

3. *Gross pathological changes in the gastrointestinal tract* including strictures, anastomoses, blind loops and diverticulosis can be excluded because of the normal radiological findings and because the resorption was not improved after treatment with antibiotics.

4. *Celiac disease or idiopathic steatorrhea* can be excluded because of normal resorption of glucose and fat. In addition we have the clinical evidence against the presence of multiple absorption deficiencies, the normal growth and development when treated only with parenteral injections of vitamin B₁₂.

5. *Immunological mechanisms* are still an obscure cause of vitamin B₁₂ deficiency. However the fact that the vitamin B₁₂ absorption was not improved after prednisone therapy points against immunological mechanisms playing any role.

As known causes of impaired absorption of vitamin B₁₂ seem to be excluded, it seems reasonable to assume that the patients are lacking some specific intestinal factor (or factors) necessary for the normal absorption of vitamin B₁₂. Thus the so-called releasing factor demonstrated in the intestinal wall of the rat (3, 6) may also be necessary in man. The lack of such a factor which probably is of enzymatic nature could be the cause of the vitamin B₁₂ malabsorption in our patients.

CLARK AND BOOTH (1) and DALLMAN AND DIAMOND (4) demonstrated lack of vitamin B_{12} absorption and vitamin B_{12} deficiency in 2 children aged 13 months and 3 years respectively after extensive resection of the distal small intestine in the newborn period. Apparently the clinical symptoms suggesting vitamin B_{12} deficiency in these patients had started at about 10 and 18 months of age. These observations support the previous assumption about the malabsorption being congenital in our patients, as the symptoms of vitamin B_{12} deficiency in most of them started in the same age group as in the afore-mentioned patients. The onset of symptoms probably depends upon the time required to empty the congenital stores of vitamin B_{12} . The situation seems analogous to the well known delayed development of vitamin B_{12} deficiency in patients after total gastrectomy. The fact that the results of the present investigation have been the same in the patients with proteinuria as in those without may fit in with the previous hypothesis that the proteinuria is an associated genetic phenomenon without primary pathogenetic importance for the vitamin B_{12} malabsorption.

It seems evident that our patients represent a new specific group of vitamin B_{12} malabsorption disease. To this group may belong the cases described by GRASBECK et al. (5) as well as those described by COLLE et al. (2) and by LAMY et al. (8). To the same group may also belong many of the incompletely examined cases formerly described as pernicious anaemia in infants and children.

Summary

A report is given on the results of the SCHILLING test in 10 previously described patients suffering from an apparently selective and specific vitamin B_{12} malabsorption disease. Without intrinsic factor material the urinary excretion of $Co^{57} B_{12}$ was between 0 and 1.4% of the test-dose administered. There was no significant increase in the excretion when intrinsic factor material was added to the test-dose $Co^{57} B_{12}$ neither after treatment with antibiotics (achromycin given to 3 patients) nor after prednisone (given to 3 patients). The intrinsic factor activity of the patients' gastric juice was normal when tested on patients with pernicious anaemia.

Résumé

Rapport sur les résultats obtenus à l'aide du test de SCHILLING chez 10 malades décrits auparavant déjà, souffrants d'une altération apparemment sélective et spécifique de l'absorption de la vitamine B_{12} . L'excrétion urinaire de la vitamine $B_{12}-Co^{57}$ était de 0-1.4% de la dose-épreuve appliquée sans le facteur intrinsèque. Aucune augmentation significative de l'excrétion ne pouvant être observée après avoir joint le facteur intrin-

stique à la dose-épreuve de vitamine B₁₂-Co⁵⁷ ni après traitement par les antibiotiques (achromycine chez 5 malades) ni après application de prednisone (chez 3 malades). L'activité du facteur intrinsèque du suc gastrique des malades était normale (dosage chez des malades atteints d'une anémie pernicieuse)

Zusammenfassung

Es wird über die Ergebnisse mit dem SCHELL Test bei 10 früher beschriebenen Fällen von scheinbar selektiver und spezifischer Vitamin B₁₂-Resorptionsstörung berichtet. Ohne Intrinsic Faktor betrug die Urinausscheidung von Co⁵⁷-B₁₂ 0-1,4% der zugeführten Testdosis. Es fand sich kein signifikanter Anstieg der Ausscheidung, wenn Intrinsic-Faktor der Testdosis von Co⁵⁷-B₁₂ zugefügt wurde, weder nach Behandlung mit Antibiotika (Achromycin bei 5 Patienten) noch nach Verabreichung von Prednison (bei 3 Patienten). Der Magensaft der Patienten zeigt normale Intrinsic Faktor Aktivität bei Prüfung an Kranken mit perniziöser Anämie.

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Aus dem Chroty-Krankenhaus für Strahlenbehandlung der Universität Heidelberg
(Direktor Prof. Dr. J. BRENN)

Strahleninduzierte Blutveränderungen im Fluoreszenzbild

Von B. CHOVI

Die Verwendung von Vitalfarbstoffen zur Strukturanalyse biochemischer Zellveränderungen wird von dem Bestreben geleitet, intrazelluläre Reaktionen und Umsatzvorgänge möglichst unmittelbar optisch zu kennzeichnen. Die ersten Impulse zur vitalen Beobachtung von Zellstrukturen gingen von botanischer Seite aus (8, 9, 30, 31, 26). Besonders STROGER (26) hat die färbetechnische Bedeutung der Fluoreszenzindikatoren für die Protoplasmaforschung frühzeitig erkannt und zugleich auf die Brauchbarkeit der Methode zur Lösung strahlenbiologischer Probleme hingewiesen. Er benutzte bei seinen grundlegenden Färberversuchen neben Pyronin und anderen Fluorochromen vorwiegend den Fluoreszenzindikator Acridin-Orange (AO) dessen Farbeffekt durch pH-Änderung variiert werden kann. Dieses Phänomen tritt durch den unterschiedlichen Konzentrationsseffekt des Farbstoffes innerhalb der Zelle zu Tage, wobei im Normalzustand nur wenig im Stadium der Zytolyse hingegen größere Mengen des in stärkerer Konzentration rot fluoreszierenden Stoffes aufgenommen werden. Diese Beobachtung gab den eigentlichen Anstoß zu ausgedehnten strahlenbiologischen Versuchen mit Alpha- und Röntgenstrahlen (28, 18, 3).

Die von botanischer Seite gewonnenen Ergebnisse bestätigten die Vermutung, daß bereits wenige Minuten nach Strahlenexposition eine Farbdissoziation infolge Membranschädigung der Zelle nichtbar wird. Allerdings waren hierfür Strahlendosen von über 100 000 r notwendig, deren Einwirkung in entsprechend kurzer Zeit erfolgen mußte.

Für die Anwendung der AO-Fluorochromierung auf medizinischem Gebiet waren ähnliche Gesichtspunkte maßgebend ob-

gleich hier natürlich andere färbetechnische Voraussetzungen vorliegen. Einen relativ breiten Raum hat sich die Methode innerhalb der Zytodiagnostik erobert, wenngleich die Diskussion darüber noch nicht abgeschlossen ist (22 23 2, 6)

Die ersten fluoreszenzmikroskopischen Untersuchungen im Blut wurden von russischen Autoren aufgenommen (20) und in der Folge von gleicher Seite intensiviert (5 4 15 16). Bei den zunächst auf tierexperimenteller Basis durchgeführten Untersuchungen wurde die Vitalfärbung durch Zusatz von Kongorot (4) modifiziert, um die membrangeschädigten Zellen hervorzuheben. Die Ergebnisse differieren erheblich. Während MIZEL und SONDAK (20) bereits innerhalb einer halben Stunde nach Strahlenexposition «Zellnekrosezonen» im Knochenmark von Ratten und Mäusen nachweisen konnten, fanden BRODSKI und SUZINA (5) keine nennenswerten Anzeichen für eine DNS-Depolymerisation. Die Diskrepanz der Befunde ist teilweise sicher technischen Ursprungs. Die AO-Färbung stellt infolge seiner starken pH-Abhängigkeit und notwendigen Differenzierung zur Erzeugung der Metachromasie an den Untersucher hohe Anforderungen. Ein schematisches Vorgehen ist nach unseren Erfahrungen auch bei Untersuchungen am gleichen Substrat nicht möglich, denn schon geringe Änderungen der Präparatdicke fallen beim Färbeprozess empfindlich ins Gewicht. Dadurch wird auch die vergleichende Betrachtung der Ergebnisse außerordentlich erschwert. Der gelungene Versuch einer Farbstandardisierung durch genaue pH-Einstellung und Abstimmung des sogenannten Differenzierungsvorganges auf bestimmte Blutzellen (Granulozytenkerne) – Untersuchungen, die vor allem auf SCHÖNDELFEDEK (23) und BERTALANFY (2) zurückgehen – hat die klinische Bedeutung der Methode erhöht.

In diesem Zusammenhang sollen nur die Aspekte der Supravitalfärbung im Hinblick auf strahleninduzierte Zellalterationen Berücksichtigung finden. Dabei interessiert speziell die Frage der Eignung dieser Methode als strahlendiagnostischer Frühtest.

Im Schrifttum werden die fluoreszenzmikroskopischen Möglichkeiten positiv beurteilt. Das Prinzip der Vitalfärbung erscheint auch aussichtsreich für die Erfassung zellulärer Früh Schäden. Angeregt durch eine Publikation von HARDING et al. (7) über posttraumatische Blutveränderungen im Fluoreszenzbild in der – im Gegensatz zu Zellkernläsionen – über zytoplasmatische Farbdissoziationen (Verstärkung der Rotkomponente) berichtet wird, haben

wir analoge Untersuchungen an Strahlenpatienten durchgeführt. Gleichzeitig wurde ein größeres tierexperimentelles Programm mit Albinoratten gestartet. Die Ergebnisse sollen zusammenfassend diskutiert werden. Vorweggenommen sei die Feststellung, daß die in die Fluoreszenzmikroskopie gesetzten Erwartungen nicht erfüllt wurden.

Methode

10 Rattenkollektive von je 12 Tieren (Durchschnittsgewicht 200 g) eines klonischen Inzuchtstammes erhielten unter Tiefentherapiebedingungen (200 kV 1 mm Cu, FHA 1 m, Dosisleistung 25 /min in Kälteflut) eine einseitige Ganzkörperbestrahlung von 25 bis 200 . Neben der einmaligen wurde eine iterativ-gestaffelte Strahlenexposition (ein- bis zweimal wöchentlich gleiche Strahlendosis) vorgenommen bei Ausdehnung des Beobachtungzeitraumes auf 4 bis 8 Wochen. In weiteren Bestrahlungskategorien wurden die Verhältnisse bis zur DL_{50} (300 bis 600 GhB) überprüft. Blutentnahmen erfolgten unmittelbar nach bis einschließlich 7 Tage nach Strahlenspektion. Die Durchmusterung der Präparate wurde sowohl im Anstrichpräparat als auch im Leukocytenkonzentrat (Blutentnahme aus der Vena femoralis) vorgenommen. Parallel fertigten wir Knochenmarksmatrizen an. Die fluoreszenzmikroskopische Präparation erfolgte einheitlich nach der bereits früher angegebenen Technik (6). Im Differentialblutbild wurden neben den morphologischen Besonderheiten die Abweichungen im UV Bild unter selektiver Betrachtung der einzelnen Zellklassen (Lympho-, Mono- und Granulozyten) registriert. Bei der Einstufung nach der zytoplasmatischen Aktivität der Zelle beschränkten wir uns auf insgesamt drei Stufengrade, die mit 1 bis 3 klassifiziert wurden. Die Kategorie 0 umfaßt die Zellen ohne sichtbare Rotfärbung. Um diese Farbunterscheidung überhaupt treffen zu können, ist es notwendig, eine optimale und stets gleichmäßige Farbdifferenzierung zu erzielen, die in der Praxis keineswegs garantiert ist. Es gibt trotz Beachtung aller technischen Voraussetzungen Präparate, die im UV Licht störende Reflexe oder Anfärbung des Untergrundes zeigen und damit für eine vergleichende Betrachtung ausschelden. Abgesehen von diesem farbtechnischen Problem ist die zytoplasmatische Farbdifferenzierung im Fluoreszenzbild erschwert. Die Kernstruktur ist – wenigstens bei kleinen Kernvolumina – durch Überlichtung unscharf. Ohne panoptisch gefärbtem Parallelanstrich kann daher gar keine eindeutige Zelleinstufung stattfinden!

Bei entsprechender Berücksichtigung und Kenntnis dieser Besonderheiten ist eine exakte und vergleichbare Auswertungsgrundlage gegeben. Sie sollte, bei nach möglichst objektiven Maßstäben (Blindversuch) vorgenommen werden.

Tabelle 1

Zytoplasmatische Aktivität der Lymphocyten im Blut zu verschiedenen Zeitpunkten nach einmaliger Ganzkörperbestrahlung von Ratten mit 50, 100 und 200 Anzahlung von je 1000 Zellen in %

Stufengrad	0	1	2	3
Kontrolltiere (MW von 10)	28,3	62,6	7,46	1,46
Gruppe 1 3 Tage nach 50	23,05	64,75	10,35	1,85
Gruppe 1 7 Tage nach 50	23,25	69,95	4,2	0,6
Gruppe 2 3 Tage nach 100	18,55	62,55	17,1	1,8
Gruppe 2 7 Tage nach 100	28,0	63,45	7,45	1,1
Gruppe 3 3 Tage nach 200	42,63	36,5	15,33	5,5
Gruppe 3 7 Tage nach 200	21,2	69,15	7,55	2,1
Gruppe 4 14 Tage nach 200	29,8	62,5	6,5	1,1

Tabelle II

Fluoreszenzmikroskopische Differenzierung der Lympho- und Monocyten und Prozentwerte im Differentialblutbild bei fraktionierter Ganzkörperbestrahlung mit 25–50 bis zu einer Maximaldosis von 400. Vor Blutkontrolle 14 Tage bestrahlungsfreies Intervall.

Farbstoffintensität	Differentialblutbild (%)											
	Lymphocyten				Monocyten							
	0	1	2	3	1	2	3					
Gruppe 1 25 / Woche Gesamtdosis 100	11,2	64,1	17,3	7,4	7,7	46,2	46,1	50,1	33,0	16,5	0,4	
Gruppe 2 2 x 25 / Woche Gesamtdosis 50	6,1	53,5	29,1	11,3	14,6	32,2	33,2	21,8	61,8	15,7		
Gruppe 3 50 / Woche Gesamtdosis 200	4,8	76,0	15,7	3,5	38,8	51,0	10,2	26,1	68,3	4,2	0,2	
Gruppe 4 2 x 50 / Woche Gesamtdosis 100	11,7	59,5	22,9	5,9	15,5	57,6	26,9	38,8	50,5	9,7	0,4	
Gruppe 5 25 / Woche Gesamtdosis 200	16,4	68,1	13,2	2,3	21,2	54,5	24,3	23,6	69,6	6,6		
Gruppe 6 50 / Woche Gesamtdosis 300	11,9	76,0	10,3	1,8	33,1	52,6	14,3	31,1	38,7	9,9	0,3	
Gruppe 6a 50 x / Woche, Gesamtdosis 400 + 4 Wochen freies Intervall	5,2	82,3	10,7	1,6	34,0	48,3	17,7	15,1	79,2	5,6	0,4	
	7,3	68,3	17,6	6,8	13,7	60,2	26,1	32,1	60,2	7,3	0,3	

Resultate

Unsere Resultate sind in den Tabellen I und II aufgeführt, je weils als Durchschnittswerte und getrennt nach den Zellformen im peripheren Blut. In Tab. I ist dabei auf die strahlensensiblen Lymphocyten Bezug genommen, bei denen 3 bis 14 Tage nach einmaliger Strahlenexposition mit 50 bis 200 r eine zytoplasmatische Differenzierung der Farbstoffintensität durchgeführt wurde. Diese Zellgruppe zeigt normalerweise im überwiegenden Anteil einen schmalen Rotzahn vom Stärkegrad 1, der offensichtlich in den Bestrahlungsgruppen 1 und 2 (50 bis 100 r) nicht faßbar verändert wird. Die erste Blutkontrolle nach 3 Tagen entspricht dabei dem morphologischen «Höhepunkt» der peripheren Blutveränderungen. Erst ab 200 r ist eine eindeutige Verschlebung der zytoplasmatischen

Aktivität zur Nulllinie (42,65 gegenüber 28,3 /) feststellbar die 7 Tage nach dem Strahleninsult eine Art Gegenregulation aufweist und nach insgesamt 14 Tagen zur Norm zurückkehrt. In diesem Dosisbereich sind aber bereits charakteristische morphologische Kennzeichen einer Strahlenschädigung gegeben. In den unter schwelligen Bestrahlungsdosen von 25 bis 50 r finden wir auch bei Untersuchungen unmittelbar nach bis 24 h nach Strahlenapplikation keine faßbare zytoplasmatische Aktivitätsschwankung gegenüber der Norm. Dasselbe gilt für fraktioniert gegebene, unter schwellige Strahlenbelastung.

In Tab II liegt eine kombinierte Auswertung der Lympho- und Monocyten bei mehrfacher Strahlenexposition mit 25 bis 50 r vor. Zum Vergleich ist auch die quantitative Zellverteilung im Differentialblutbild herangezogen. Die ermittelten Werte lassen im Vergleich zur effektiven Strahlendosis keine signifikanten Abweichungen erkennen. Hinzu kommt die beim Auftauchen strahleninduzierter Riesenzellen im Blut gegebene Verwechslungsmöglichkeit mit Monocyten oder ihre Fehleinstufung bei der Kategorie der großen Lymphocyten. Die monocytären Blutelemente zeigen in der Regel eine lebhaft zytoplasmatische Aktivität, die eigentlich nur von den Plasmazellen übertroffen wird (was besonders bei Knochenmarksausstrichen hervortritt). Eine fehlende Rotkomponente des Monocytenzytoplasmas konnten wir bis zur LD₅₀ (600 r) nie feststellen.

In Anbetracht dieser enttäuschenden Bilanz im peripheren Blut haben wir uns eingehenden Knochenmarkstudien zugewandt und unter gleichzeitiger Erhöhung der Ganzkörperdosis von 100 bis 700 r versucht, den zytoplasmatischen Früheffekt zu verstärken. Die vergleichenden und mikrophotographisch fixierten Farbaufnahmen fielen auch in dieser Richtung unbefriedigend aus. Allerdings wurde nur der Zeitraum bis zur akuten zellulär morphologischen Initialphase der Strahlenschädigung, also bis maximal 24 h post rad., als Wertmesser betrachtet.

Die Übertragung und der Einsatz der Methodik für klinische Fragestellungen, speziell zur diagnostischen Abklärung strahlentherapeutischer Maßnahmen hat erwartungsgemäß keine Erweiterung des Blickfeldes gebracht. Eine Linksverschiebung des Blutbildes sowie atypische Blutzellen und Riesenzellformen treten zwar im Fluoreszenzbild farblich besser hervor sind aber für den auf

merkamen Betrachter auch im normalen Ausstrichpräparat nicht zu übersehen und zytologisch zweifellos sicherer einzuordnen.

Schlußfolgerungen

Die AO-Vitalfärbung als zytochemische Methode kann nicht als Empfindlichkeitstest zur Früherkennung einer Strahlenschädigung herangezogen werden. Die zytoplasmatischen Veränderungen (Schwankungen der Rotfluoreszenz) treten relativ spät ein und sind an eine Ganzkörperdosis von wenigstens 100 bis 200 r gebunden, können daher nicht als unmittelbare Strahleninduktionsfolge aufgefaßt werden. Die von MENDEL UND SOMDAK (20) beschriebenen Zellnekrosen oder ein Farbumschlag der Zellkern-Grünfluoreszenz in ein gelbliches Kolorit sind offenbar an unphysiologisch hohe Strahlenbelastungen gebunden, die für klinische Belange ohne Interesse sind. Trotz der einfachen Färbetechnik stößt das Fluoreszenzverfahren wegen der Notwendigkeit einer einheitlichen Farb-Abstimmung, die ja erst die Bezugsbasis für die Auswertung abgibt, auf erhebliche praktische Schwierigkeiten.

Über Strukturänderungen von Nukleinsäuren unter der Einwirkung einer ionisierenden Bestrahlung liegen einige experimentelle Arbeiten vor (5, 21, 29). Aus ihnen geht hervor, daß der DNS-Komplex als Makromolekül außerordentlich strahlenresistent ist. BRODSKY UND SUETINA (5) ermittelten für verschiedene kernhaltige Knochenmarkszellen einen annähernd gleichen DNS-Gehalt von $5,5 - 6,2 \times 10^{-12}$ g während der RNS-Anteil mit zunehmender Ausreifung abnimmt. Der Nukleinsäure/Nukleotid Index beträgt für die erythropoetische Reihe 2,5 bis 3,0 und für die myelischen Zellen 1,5 bis 1,8. Eine im Tierversuch an Mäusen durchgeführte Letalbestrahlung mit 700 r hatte innerhalb von 24 h keine faßbare Reduktion des Nukleinsäurespiegels zur Folge. Hingegen zeigten dieselben, morphologisch noch intakten Zellen bereits unmittelbar nach dem Strahleninsult einen steilen Abfall der Nukleotidfraktion, die nach 6 h einen Nullwert erreichte und nach 24 h eine ansteigende Tendenz erkennen ließ. Bei offensichtlich geschädigten Zellen (Kernfragmentationen und Nekrobioseformen) war gleichzeitig ein Abanken der Nukleinsäuren um den Faktor 8 bis 5 festzustellen.

TARTLIN et al. (29) postulieren zwei Reaktionsformen der DNS, die auf Grund einer unterschiedlichen Molekülkonfiguration eine verschiedene Radiosensibilität aufweisen sollen. Aber auch aus diesen Untersuchungen kann nur der Schluß gezogen werden, daß

der strahleninduzierte Abbau der DNS-RNS-Moleküle zahlreiche metabolische Zwischenstufen durchläuft, die mittels der Acridin-Orange Fluorochromierung im Frühstadium nicht erfaßt werden können

Zusammenfassung

Anhand klinischer und tierexperimenteller Untersuchungen über den Wert der Acridin-Orange-Supravitalfärbung zur Frühdiagnose einer Strahlenschädigung werden Technik und Voraussetzungen dieser Methode einer kritischen Betrachtung unterzogen. Die negativen Ergebnisse rechtfertigen keine Anerkennung des Fluoreszenzverfahrens als strahlendiagnostischer Frühtest. Dieser Standpunkt trifft auf die Verhältnisse eines bis mehrmaliger sublethaler Strahlenapplikation zu und ist biochemisch zu begründen.

Summary

Technique and requirements for acridine orange supravital staining for the early diagnosis of radiation injury are critically examined on the basis of clinical and experimental investigations into the value of this method. The negative results do not justify the acceptance of the fluorescence procedure as a method of early diagnosis in radiation sickness. This conclusion applies to conditions of single and multiple sublethal exposure and can be explained biochemically.

Résumé

A l'aide de données cliniques et de résultats obtenus par des expériences sur l'animal sur la valeur de la coloration supravitale par l'orange d'acridine pour le diagnostic précoce d'une lésion radiologique l'auteur soumet la technique et les conditions préalables de cette méthode à une étude critique. Les résultats négatifs ne justifient pas l'adaptation d'une méthode de fluorescence comme test radiodiagnostique précoce. Ce point de vue vaut pour les conditions d'une applications unique ou répétée d'une dose subléthale de rayons-X et peut être justifié par la biochimie.

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Histochemical Studies of Leukocytes from an Inflammatory Exudate

III. Di- and Triphosphopyridine Nucleotide Linked Dehydrogenases

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A variety of nucleotide linked dehydrogenases are now demonstrable by specific histochemical staining reactions, and in the present study such reactions have been used to investigate the pattern of oxidative metabolism in 'skin window' preparations of migrating leukocytes. A previous report concerned the activity of diaphorases and non-nucleotide-dependent dehydrogenases in similar preparations (15).

Methods

General procedure. The leukocytes were obtained by RUSOCK's "skin window" technique (11). The cells migrated from a small excoriation on the forearm or the thigh to a cover slip placed on the lesion. The cover slip was replaced hourly for 11-13 hours. After removal from the lesion the preparations were dried for a few minutes to avoid the non-specific dehydrogenase reaction (15). Subsequently they were incubated for 30 minutes at 37 °C, fixed in formal-saline and mounted in glycerine jelly. Phase contrast examination was sometimes used for the identification of weakly or diffusely positive cells. Blood films were treated using the same procedure. The general technique has been described in detail previously (15).

Principle of histochemical reaction. The incubation medium contains the specific substrate of the enzyme, the appropriate coenzyme (diphosphopyridine nucleotide (DPN) or triphosphopyridine nucleotide (TPN) and tetrazolium salt. At the sites of dehydrogenase activity the coenzyme is reduced and formazan is deposited due to the subsequent diaphorase reaction (15).

Incubation media. The incubation media were essentially the ones recommended by PEARSE (9). The standard medium was composed as follows: substrate (0.1 M) DPN or TPN (0.01 M), sodium cyanide (0.01 or 0.001 M), magnesium chloride (0.005 M), Nitro Blue Tetrazolium (Nitro BT) (0.25 mg./mL), polyvinyl pyrrolidone (75 mg./mL) in phosphate buffer (0.015 M); pH 6.7-7.1. The standard medium was used to demonstrate DPN- and TPN-linked malic, lactic, isocitric and glutamic dehydrogenases. In the remainder of the reactions the medium differed slightly: DPN-linked α -glyoxyphosphatase

Aided by a grant from "Arvid Nilsson - Fond"

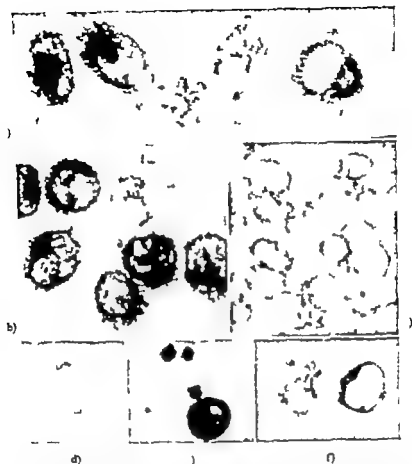


Fig 1 a) DPN-linked malic dehydrogenase reaction in two neutrophils and three macrophages from "skin window" (10 hour preparation) b) DPN-linked lactic dehydrogenase reaction in macrophages and neutrophil from skin window (10 hour preparation) c) DPN-linked α -glycerophosphate dehydrogenase reaction in neutrophils from "skin window" (12 hour preparation) d) Weak reaction in macrophage from control preparation (DPN-containing standard medium). e) DPN-linked lactic dehydrogenase reaction in lymphocyte (and platelets) from blood film. f) DPN-linked malic dehydrogenase reaction in neutrophil and lymphocyte from blood film.

dehydrogenase: tris buffer (0.05 M) instead of phosphate buffer; Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (DPN-linked) tris buffer; sodium azide (0.01 M) and sodium fluoride (0.5 mM) instead of sodium cyanide. In some experiments 3(4,5-dimethyl thiazolyl-2)-2,5 diphenyl tetrazolium bromide (MTT) (0.25 mg./ml.) and cobaltous chloride (0.025 M) instead of Nitro BT β -hydroxy-butyric dehydrogenase (DPN-linked) sodium azide instead of sodium cyanide. Control media were prepared omitting the specific substrate. In the DPN-linked α -glycerophosphate dehydrogenase series an additional control medium contained α -glycerophosphate, but DPN was omitted. The media

were stable for at least 12 hours, and were prepared from stock solutions of the different components (9), which part from the DPN and TPN solutions had been adjusted to approximately pH 7. Owing to the acidity of the unadjusted DPN and TPN solutions it was necessary to adjust the final medium to a neutral pH using tris buffer (0.2 M) pH 9. Only DPN-linked malic and lactic dehydrogenase could also be demonstrated satisfactorily at a slightly acid pH. The control media were carefully adjusted to the same pH as the corresponding substrate-containing medium. In one experiment the TPN-linked lactic dehydrogenase medium was adjusted to pH 5.5 using 0.1 N HCl (5).

Material. Each enzyme was studied in preparations from 4–5 skin windows on 2–3 normal persons, except TPN-linked lactic dehydrogenase (pH 5.5) and TPN-linked malic dehydrogenase, each of which was studied in one skin window and TPN-linked lactic dehydrogenase (pH 7) and TPN-linked glutamic dehydrogenase, which were only studied in single preparations. In each experiment single preparations were incubated in the corresponding control medium.

Results

Both the pattern and the intensity of the formazan deposition varied when migrating leukocytes were stained for different nucleotide linked dehydrogenases. The strongest staining was obtained in the *DPN-linked lactic malic and isocitric dehydrogenase* series (fig. 1a and b). The neutrophilic granulocytes which are the first cells to migrate, contained a moderate number of coarse, distinct formazan granules in the cytoplasm in addition to a weak diffuse background staining. The nuclei were unstained. The macrophages which appear 3 to 4 hours after the onset of the experiment, were more strongly positive. Their cytoplasm contained numerous formazan granules which merged to form an almost diffuse purple precipitate. The intensity of the reaction in both macrophages and neutrophils increased considerably with the progress of the inflammatory process to reach its maximum in the 8 to 10 hour preparations. The eosinophils contained fewer granules than the neutrophils, and basophils were not identified. In the *isocitric dehydrogenase* series the macrophages were slightly less positive than in the lactic and malic dehydrogenase series and the deposits in the neutrophils were particularly coarse often forming short rods.

The inflammatory leukocytes stained less intensely for *DPN-linked α -glycerophosphate and glutamic dehydrogenase* than for the preceding three enzymes. The first cells to migrate were often negative, but a positive reaction appeared after a few hours and in the last preparations both granulocytes and macrophages were moderately positive. The neutrophils stained for α -glycerophosphate dehydrogenase only contained few granules, but the diffuse background staining was prominent (fig. 1c).

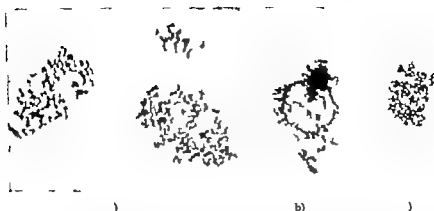


Fig. 2. Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase reaction (Nicro BT) in skin window preparations. a) Neutrophils from 12 hour preparation showing various degrees of activity. Two large, diffusely positive cells, one cell in which only part of the cytoplasm is positive (top right) and one cell, which is negative part from few isolated granules (bottom left). b) Macrophage from the same preparation. c) Strongly positive eosinophil.

Control preparations from the later stages of the inflammatory process which were incubated in the DPN-containing standard medium without substrate presented a weak reaction especially in the macrophages, which, however did not reach the intensities obtained with the substrate-containing media (fig. 1d). The preparations from the α -glycerophosphate dehydrogenase series incubated in media without DPN or without substrate were negative. DPN linked β -hydroxybutyric dehydrogenase however was not demonstrated with certainty as the reaction did not differ significantly from that seen in the control preparations incubated in the azide-containing medium without substrate.

The preparations from the *TPA-linked malic and isocitric dehydrogenase* series were weakly stained in comparison with the ones stained for the corresponding DPN-linked enzymes. The first migrating cells were negative, and in the later preparations the macrophages only presented a weak cytoplasmic staining while the neutrophils contained few granules. No *TPA-linked lactic dehydrogenase* activity could be demonstrated at pH 5.5 and the staining at pH 7 was weak. The preparations examined for *TPA-linked glutamic dehydrogenase* were negative or almost negative.

In the *TPA-linked glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase* series both the pattern of activity and the intracellular localisation of formazan

differed from that seen in all the other series. From the onset of migration some of the neutrophils were found to contain numerous closely packed formazan granules covering the whole cell, and it was usually impossible to distinguish the nuclear outline except by phase contrast examination (fig 2a). The positive neutrophils often belonged to the large type of cell most frequently encountered in early "skin window" preparations (14). The reaction in some of the eosinophils was even stronger than in the positive neutrophils (fig 2c). Many negative granulocytes were seen between the positive cells in contrast to all the other series where cells of the same type showed more or less the same intensity of staining. The macrophages were weakly or moderately positive especially in later preparations, and the deposition of formazan in these cells did not differ appreciably from that seen in the other series (fig 2b). When MTT was used instead of Nitro BT the same pattern of activity was seen but the reaction was weaker and the cobalt formazan granules were smaller and more distinct.

The control preparations incubated in the TPN-containing media without substrate were negative. Only in the controls from the glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase series some eosinophils presented a weak staining.

The leukocytes in the blood films were damaged by the histochemical procedure and did not permit critical studies. In blood films stained for DPN linked lactic, malic and isocitric dehydrogenase the lymphocytes and monocytes were strongly positive and the neutrophils presented a weak staining (fig 1e and f). Some granulocytes stained diffusely for glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase, whereas the lymphocytes and monocytes were weakly positive. Activity of DPN linked α -glycerophosphate, DPN linked glutamic and TPN linked isocitric dehydrogenase was only demonstrated in lymphocytes and monocytes.

Comment

The nucleotide linked dehydrogenases catalyze the oxidation of their specific substrate, while the coenzyme (DPN or TPN) undergoes reduction. The coenzyme may subsequently be reoxidized either by DPN or TPN diaphorase, which transfer the electrons to the cytochrome system, or by reductive dehydrogenase reactions requiring the same coenzyme. The histochemical reactions for

nucleotide-linked dehydrogenases imitate the former type of process both the dehydrogenase and the diaphorase participate in the reaction, and the tetrazolium salt acts as electron acceptor instead of the cytochromes. The deposits of formazan (reduced tetrazolium) therefore indicate sites of diaphorase activity associated with activity of the dehydrogenase in question. The overall activity of DP\ and TP\ diaphorase was reported in a previous paper (15)

The histochemically demonstrable enzymes from the tricarboxylic acid cycle are succinic, malic and isocitric dehydrogenase. The activity pattern of DP\ linked malic dehydrogenase resembled that of succinic dehydrogenase although the staining intensity was stronger (15). This supports the earlier interpretation that tricarboxylic acid cycle activity is greater in macrophages than in granulocytes and that it increases with the progress of the inflammatory process. The weak reaction obtained with the corresponding TP\ containing medium is explained by a small affinity of malic dehydrogenase to TP\ although malic decarboxylase, if present, may have contributed (8).

The strong DP\ linked isocitric dehydrogenase reaction probably indicates that this enzyme is responsible for the greater part of isocitrate oxidation in leukocytes. Similar observations have been made in studies of other tissues (3) and DE DUVE AND HERS suggest that TP\ linked isocitric dehydrogenase is not concerned with the tricarboxylic acid cycle but has other functions (2). In most histochemical studies, however the TP\ linked enzyme has shown greater activity than the DP\ linked enzyme (9).

Biochemical experiments have shown that suspensions of exudative neutrophils have a high lactate production and a low oxygen uptake (7) which suggests a high reductive lactic dehydrogenase activity and in comparison a low activity of diaphorases and tricarboxylic acid cycle enzymes. The present finding that the migrating neutrophils do not stain more strongly for lactic than for malic dehydrogenase may be due to the fact that DP\ diaphorase participates in the histochemical demonstration of lactic dehydrogenase. It has, however been suggested by MARTIN et al. that the greater part of the lactate produced by neutrophils may not be formed by the reduction of pyruvate but by the action of glyoxylase (7). A TP\ linked lactic dehydrogenase, which is more active at a weakly acid than at a neutral pH, has been demonstrated in phagocytosing

leukocytes by KARKOVSKY (5). It was not demonstrable in skin windows using the present technique.

The glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase activity which was greatest in some of the granulocytes, may indicate glucose break down through the pentose shunt, but the enzyme may also be concerned with synthesis of ribonucleic acid or lipids. It is interesting that SMITH AND RUBINSTEIN found a high activity of this enzyme, TPN linked isocitric dehydrogenase and TPN diaphorase in tissue macrophages associated with necrosis, whereas activity of DPV linked dehydrogenases and DPV diaphorase was weak or absent (12). They interpreted their finding as a sign of lipid synthesis. The completely different pattern found in macrophages in "skin windows" probably indicates that macrophage metabolism varies with the state of function. It seems less likely that macrophages in different locations have different origins and different inborn enzyme patterns.

The function of DPV linked α -glycerophosphate dehydrogenase is uncertain. It may participate in a glycerophosphate cycle with non nucleotide-linked (mitochondrial) α -glycerophosphate dehydrogenase, or it may be concerned with phospholipid synthesis (4, 6). Glutamic dehydrogenase may also take part in various processes. The weak reaction observed in some of the control preparations, especially in the β -hydroxybutyric dehydrogenase series, was probably caused by endogenous substrate. Non specific reduction of the coenzyme ("nothing dehydrogenase" activity) is less likely at the pH used in these experiments (9).

It is difficult to interpret the intracellular localisation of formazan in terms of subcellular morphology, but it is apparent that the sites of enzyme activity in the case of glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase differed from that of all the other enzymes. The closely packed fine granular deposits observed in the neutrophils with this reaction seem to exclude a mitochondrial localisation. The result is in agreement with the observation from homogenisation studies that the enzyme is confined to the supernatant, but PEARSE states that it is mitochondrial in histochemical studies of tissue sections (9). The smaller variations in the size and shape of the formazan deposits in neutrophils observed in the other series possibly also reflect differences in the intracellular localisation of the enzymes. Homogenisation studies have shown that DPV linked isocitric dehydrogenase is confined to the mitochondrial fraction, whereas DPV-linked α -

glycerophosphate dehydrogenase is found in the supernatant (3, 13)

No satisfactory technique has yet been developed for the application of histochemical dehydrogenase methods to leukocytes from blood. QUAGLINO AND HAYHON recommend the use of acetone fixed blood films, but it is not known to which extent the various enzymes withstand this treatment (10). BALOGH AND COHEN altogether avoided fixation and were able to demonstrate a number of nucleotide-linked dehydrogenases in granulocytes, lymphocytes and monocytes (1). In the present study the greatest dehydrogenase activity was observed in lymphocytes and monocytes suggesting a higher oxidative metabolism in these cell types than in granulocytes.

Summary

The activity of nucleotide-linked dehydrogenases was studied histochemically in migrating granulocytes and macrophages from skin window preparations. The inflammatory cells stained intensely for DPN-linked lactic, malic and isocitric dehydrogenase. A weaker staining was obtained with reagents for various other dehydrogenases, including TPN-linked isocitric dehydrogenase. The intensity of most of the staining reactions increased with the progress of the inflammatory process, and usually the macrophages were more positive than the granulocytes. Only glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase presented a pattern of activity different from that of all the other enzymes. For comparison the histochemical reactions were also applied on leukocytes from blood films. The results were discussed in terms of leukocyte metabolism.

Résumé

Détermination histochimique des déshydrogénases fixées aux nucléotides de granulocytes et macrophages émigrés des préparations des fenêtres cutanées. Les cellules inflammatoires montraient une coloration plus intense des déshydrogénases fixées aux nucléotides de l'acide lactique, malonique et isocitrique. Les réactions avec diverses autres déshydrogénases, la déshydrogénase fixée au TPN de l'acide isocitrique incluse montraient une coloration plus faible. L'intensité de la plupart des réactions de coloration augmentait avec l'évolution du processus inflammatoire. Les macrophages réagissaient en général plus fortement que les granulocytes. Seule l'activité de la déshydrogénase du glucose-6-phosphate montrait une réaction différente de tous les autres ferments. A titre de comparaison, des réactions histochimiques sont pratiquées sur des leucocytes de frottis du sang périphérique. Discussion des résultats en relation avec le métabolisme leucocytaire.

Zusammenfassung

An ausgewanderten Granulozyten und Makrophagen aus «Hautfenster»-Präparaten wurde die Aktivität der Nukleotid-gebundenen Dehydrogenasen histochemisch untersucht. Die Entzündungszellen zeigten eine intensive Färbung für die DPN-gebundenen Dehydrogenasen von Milchsäure, Äpfelsäure und Isocitronensäure. Eine schwächere Färbung fand sich mit Reaktionen auf verschiedene andere Dehydrogenasen, einschließlich der TPN-gebundenen Isocitronensäure-Dehydrogenase. Bei den meisten

Farbreaktionen nahm die Intensität mit dem Fortschreiten des Entzündungsprozesses zu, und im allgemeinen reagierten die Makrophagen stärker positiv als die Granulozyten. Nur die Glukose-6-phosphat Dehydrogenase zeigt ein von allen anderen Enzymen abweichendes Verhalten ihrer Aktivität. Zum Vergleich wurden die histochemischen Reaktionen auch an Leukozyten aus Blutausstrichen angestellt. Die Ergebnisse werden im Hinblick auf den Leukozyten-Stoffwechsel besprochen.

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Inactivation of Pathological Inhibitors of Intrinsic Thromboplastin* by Procoagulant from Human Urine**

By KURT N. VON KAULLA AND EDITH VON KAULLA

The ineffectiveness of blood transfusions in patients with circulating inhibitors of intrinsic thromboplastin creates serious therapeutic problems during bleeding episodes. No drug neutralizing these inhibitors is known. In this report it will be shown that a constituent of normal human urine counteracts such pathological inhibitor activity of human plasma *in vitro*. Some properties of this material have been described earlier (1, 2). Its activity against circulating pathological inhibitors of intrinsic thromboplastin has been observed only recently.

Materials and Methods

Procoagulant from human urine (abbreviated in the following as "T" fraction; see also footnote on page 00) was obtained with recently improved and simplified extraction procedure. 2.5 liters of pooled urine from healthy males collected during the day flows by gravity (190 cm. drop) through Coors filtering thimble # 751/1 during the night. "T" fraction and urokinase are retained by the thimble and separately eluted from it by back-washing procedures outlined diagrammatically in fig. 1. The "T" fraction eluate is cleared by centrifugation (R.C.F. of 1590 for 15 minutes), concentrated to the desired range by pervaporation in vacuo under N atmosphere, dialyzed against buffered saline pH 7.4, sealed in ampules, sterilized for 20 minutes in boiling water and deep frozen. A lyophilized powder can be obtained from the dialyzed isoelectric precipitate forming in the eluate at pH 3.5 after acidification (with 0.1 N HCl).

Demonstration of circulating inhibitors of intrinsic thromboplastin. Abnormal thromboplastic activity brought about by circulating inhibitors was suspected in 5 out of 7 patients available for testing of the "T" fraction when poor prothrombin consumption, in presence of normal thrombin times (3), coincided with the inability to control bleed-

With this term no distinction is made as to whether the inhibitors interfere with intrinsic thromboplastin itself or with factors required for its formation.

Read in part at the annual meeting of the Amer. Soc. of Hematology, Columbus, Nov. 1962. Supported by grants-in-aid from the Belle Bonfils Memorial Blood Bank in Denver and U.S. Public Health Service (HE-05538).

rhage with repeated transfusions of fresh blood or fresh frozen plasma. The remaining two patients had minor bleeding episodes not requiring transfusion together with deficient prothrombin consumption. The abnormal inhibitor activity was confirmed when neither addition of at least 10% fresh normal plasma with good consumption, 10% BaSO₄ adsorbed plasma, nor 10% aged serum corrected prothrombin consumption in the patients' plasma. The plasma tubules were standing at room temperature (20-25°C) for 5 minutes before recalcification. With high titer of inhibitor activity there was no correction after addition of 50 to 80% normal plasma. As representative example for demonstration of high inhibitor titer in the plasma tested with "T" fraction, the serum prothrombin times of patient R. C. after various additions are given in table I.

Table I

Recalcification times and serum prothrombin times after various additions to patient R. C. plasma with high titer of circulating inhibitor of intrinsic thromboplastin.

Plasma	Addition	Recalc. time minutes	Serum prothr. time seconds
patient	none	93	16.8
patient	5% brain cephalin	87	15.6
patient	20% serum	36	16.8
patient	20% BaSO ₄ adsorbed plasma	57	19.6
patient	10% normal plasma	66	16.0
patient	20% normal plasma	77	17.5
patient	50% normal plasma	18	17.7
patient	80% normal plasma	11	24.2
normal contr.	—	12	56.4

According to (4) diluted in buffered saline. 24 hours room temperature, then frozen. Fresh normal human oxalated plasma adsorbed on 50 mg BaSO₄/ml. same plasma, citrated. Note depressed prothrombin consumption in mixture containing 20% patient plasma and 80% normal plasma.

Prothrombin consumption test. Serum prothrombin time was measured in recalcified fresh citrated plasma as described earlier (3). In this particular method, the dilution of plasma during recalcification is kept at minimum. This increases the sensitivity for inhibitor activity and produces normal recalcification times in the same range as the Lee White times.

Thrombin generation test. This test was carried out in citrated plasma within thirty minutes after drawing of the citrated blood (3).

Thrombelastograms: Continuous recordings of the clot formation in recalcified citrated plasma (5) were obtained with the thrombelastograph (6).

Buffered saline pH 7.4 One part barbital acetate pH 7.4 (7) and four parts saline were mixed.

Addition of "T" fraction. For correction of clotting by "T" fraction in the tests above volume of the compound solution equivalent to 5% of the plasma to be treated and corresponding to about 0.7-1 ml. urine per ml. plasma was added. The centrifuged "T" fraction (uate (fig. 1 diagram II) or partially rediluted concentrated eluate, both after several hours dialysis in the cold against buffered saline were applied. For the thrombelastographic studies of fig. 2, 1% solution of the lyophilized material was used increasing the volume of the plasma by 0.5 and 1 respectively. All "T" fraction solutions were added within ten minutes before recalcification.

Topical application of "T" fraction. A 10 times concentrated sterilized thimble eluate occasionally prepared from the patient's own urine was used. Application technique indicated in table II.

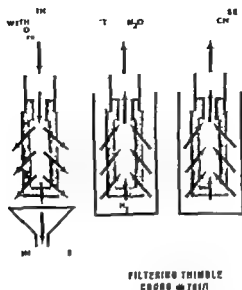


Fig. 2. Separation of "T" fraction and urokinase from human urine. Diagram I represents retention of "T" fraction and urokinase by the thimble from the filtering urine. Diagram II indicates that only the "T" fraction is eluted by water which is sucked back through the thimble (first 20 ml. removing urine residues to be discarded, then 140 ml. containing the "T" fraction eluate). Diagram III shows the subsequent urokinase elution by 1 M KSCN (20 ml. to rinse thimble followed by 140 ml.).

Results

a) *Effect of T fraction on hemophilic blood* The production of a firm clot within a normal time in hemophilia A plasma by 0.0015–0.003 mg./ml. "T" fraction is demonstrated with the thrombelastograms of fig. 2. The corrective effect of "T" fraction never failed with hemophilia A plasma.

b) *Clinical effect of topical application of T fraction in patients with hemophilia or inhibitors of intrinsic thromboplastin.* The easy availability of the "T" fraction together with its tolerance to heat sterilization lend itself to topical use. Application of the "T" fraction on a bleeding surface (immediately after the blood has been wiped off) in hemophiliacs initiates a normal local clotting process which goes quickly to completion yielding a firm adherent clot. Best results were obtained when applied on a dry wound surface. With external bleeding the topical "T" fraction reduced the number of trans-

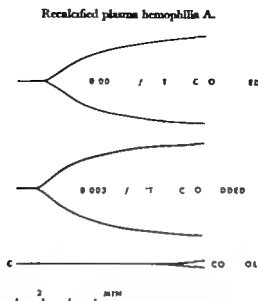


Fig 2. Induction of normal clot formation in recalcified hemophilia A-plasma upon addition of "T" fraction. A 0.0015 mg. "T" fraction/ml. plasma, almost complete normalization. B 0.003 mg "T" fraction/ml. plasma, complete normalization. C Untreated control. Thrombelastograms.

Table II

The use of topical sterile "T" fraction in hemophilia and circulating inhibitors of intrinsic thromboplastin.

Condition	How applied	Results
tooth extractions	gelfoam	excellent
cuts, lacerations	gelfoam	excellent
surgical procedures	gelfoam	good
epistaxis	packings soaked	fair
intestinal hemorrhages	drink (buffered)	inconclusive

fusions required or made them unnecessary. Effectiveness in hemophilia was expected but the equally observed effectiveness in patients with circulating inhibitors was surprising. Topically applied "T" fraction proved to be a very effective hemostatic agent in such patients involved in car accidents and bleeding continuously from multiple cuts and lacerations in spite of massive transfusions. A summary of clinical impressions obtained from about 25 cases with topical application of "T" fraction is given in table II.

c) *Neutralization of pathological inhibitors of intrinsic thromboplastin by "T" fraction in vitro*. The topical control of hemorrhages in patients with circulating inhibitors of intrinsic thromboplastin by

Table III

Correction of serum prothrombin times in patients with circulating inhibitors of intrinsic thromboplastin of various titers by "T" fraction in vitro (normal values 35-50 seconds)

Patient	Etiology	Without "T"	With "T"
M. R.	unknown	18	43
M. M.	AHG deficiency transfusions	17	42
R. C.	thrombopathia?	17	43
C. K.	unknown	19	35
No correction with 50-80% normal plasma			
G. F.	lupus erythematosus	19	45
J. J.	PTG deficiency multiple transfusions	18	50
R. C.	unknown	17	36

Circulating inhibitor of intrinsic thromboplastin (low titer). Correction of deficient thrombin generation by "T"

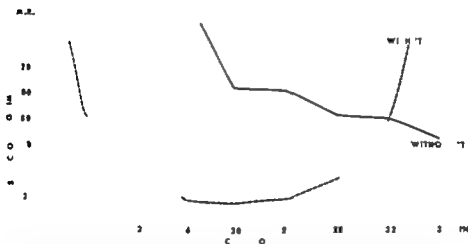


Fig. 2. Thrombin generation pattern with low titer circulating inhibitor of intrinsic thromboplastin before (black line) and after (dashed line) addition of "T" fraction. Abcissa: Incubation period after recalcification. Ordinate: Clotting time of fibrinogen solution to which an aliquot of the incubated recalcified citrated plasma after indicated incubation periods has been added.

"T" fraction prompted investigations on its corrective action on their prothrombin consumption, thrombin generation, and thromb-
elastogram.

1) *Prothrombin consumption.* Table III shows the serum prothrombin time of patients with circulating inhibitors before and after addition of "T" fraction. In all instances the "T" fraction brought the short serum prothrombin times back to normal values. The effected correction is of particular interest in the last three

Circulating inhibitor of intrinsic thromboplastin (high titer) Correction of deficient thrombin generation.

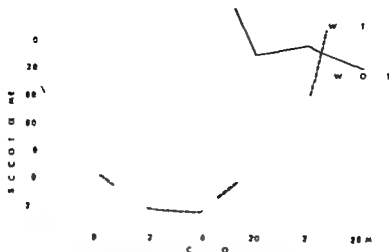


Fig 4 Patient J J Thrombin generation pattern with high titer circulating inhibitor of intrinsic thromboplastin before (black line) and after (dashed line) addition of "T" fraction. For further legend see fig 3.

patients of table III who exhibit a circulating inhibitor of high titer as shown by the inability of addition of 50-80 / of normal plasma to correct their serum prothrombin times.

2) *Thrombin generation.* The normalizing action of the "T" fraction on plasma with circulating inhibitors of intrinsic thromboplastin of various titers is further confirmed by the induced shift of the abnormal thrombin generation patterns into the normal range. Fig 3 reproduces the thrombin generation pattern of patient M R. with a low titer circulating inhibitor. Note the poor thrombin generation in absence of the "T" fraction and the perfectly normal pattern in its presence. This patient was transfusion resistant at the time of the test, but responded later to hydrocortisone treatment.

The following thrombin generation graphs were obtained from two patients (J J and R. C.) with high titer circulating inhibitors. Both did not respond clinically to even massive transfusions with out or with treatment with ACTH or hydrocortisone. Fig 4 shows the very poor thrombin generation of J J and effected the complete correction after addition of "T" fraction.

The ineffectiveness of large amounts of normal plasma on prothrombin consumption of the other high titer patient R. C. is

Circulating inhibitor of intrinsic thromboplastin (high titer). Correction of deficient thrombin generation by "T"

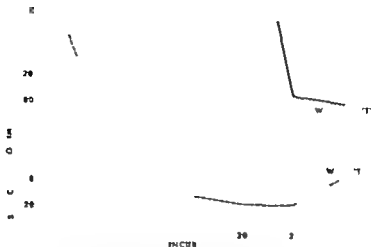


Fig. 5. Patient R. C. Thrombin generation pattern with high titer circulating inhibitor of intrinsic thromboplastin before (black line) and after (dashed line) addition of "T" fraction. For further legend see fig. 3.

Circulating inhibitor of intrinsic thromboplastin. Correction of thrombelastogram by "T"

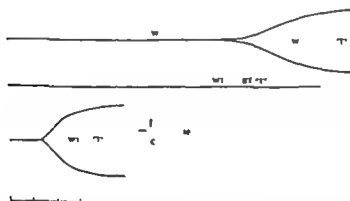


Fig. 6. Patient R. C. Thrombelastograms with high titer circulating inhibitor of intrinsic thromboplastin. Correction of plasma thrombelastogram by addition of "T" fraction.

demonstrated in table I. Here again, addition of "T" fraction normalizes the thrombin generation pattern as shown in fig. 5.

3) *Thrombelastograms* The corrective effect of the "T" fraction on the greatly altered thrombelastogram of plasma from a patient

with circulating inhibitor of intrinsic thromboplastin reveals that the "T" fraction converts the abnormal kinetics of fibrin clot formation into nearly normal patterns. In fig 6 this is brought about by the thrombelastograms of patient R. G. This figure shows that with recalcified plasma of this patient no clot measurable by the thrombelastograph could be obtained within 240 minutes, whereas after addition of "T" fraction, within 29 minutes a normal clot started to form and went rapidly to completion. Other observations indicate that with an increased amount of "T" fraction added this time would have been shortened further.

Discussion

In vitro correction of hemophilic blood clotting by small amounts of human urine as such was observed years ago (8-9). No efforts have been reported to isolate the responsible compound and to characterize some of its properties until more recently (1-2). The compound's ability to normalize hemophilia A clotting and to participate in the conversion of prothrombin into thrombin in the presence, but not absence of platelet factor 3 factor V and calcium (10) suggests some functional relationship to antihemophilic globulin. However heat stability excretion by hemophiliacs and the ability to neutralize with small amounts inhibitors of intrinsic thromboplastin seem to be specific properties of the "T" fraction. On the other hand, it does not possess some essential characteristics of tissue thromboplastin as shown by the heat stability of the antihemophilic effect and the requirement of platelet factor 3 for its full activity. At least five times the amount needed for hemophilic blood is required to improve clotting of platelet poor plasma (2). One hundred times this amount does not reduce the clotting time of normal plasma below normal limits (11). It was also observed that methyl alcohol destroys its activity thoroughly (11). The toxicity is low: 5 mg/kg rapidly intravenously injected into rabbits are tolerated producing a mild transitory thrombopenia and leucopenia similar to injections of macromolecules (2). All these observations do not yet permit a chemical or functional classification of the material.

It might be possible that the "T" fraction* consists of or con-

*It should be noted that it was recently proposed (13) to change the name "T" fraction to "P" fraction. The abbreviation "P" seemed to be more logical, since it was shown that the material is procoagulant rather than some type of thromboplastin.

tains a material which binds or inactivates inhibitors and related compounds. This assumption would also hold true for the corrective effect on hemophilic blood if one accepts that hemophilia A is caused by an inhibitor rather than by a deficiency—a concept which was recently considerably substantiated by MAXMEN (12).

From the practical point of view the procoagulant fraction from human urine deserves consideration as to its therapeutic potentialities, particularly in respect to circulating inhibitors of intrinsic thromboplastin.

Summary

A human urine fraction is described which in small quantities inactivates circulating inhibitors of intrinsic thromboplastin and normalizes hemophilic blood in vitro. The concentrated material exhibits good heat stability.

Résumé

Les auteurs décrivent une fraction de l'urine humaine qui peut, en petites quantités, inactiver les inhibiteurs circulants de la thromboplastine intrinsèque et normaliser un sang hémophilique *in vivo*. Le matériel concentré présente une bonne résistance à la chaleur.

Zusammenfassung

Es wird über eine Fraktion aus menschlichem Urin berichtet, die in kleinen Mengen die zirkulierenden Hemmstoffe von intrinsik Thromboplastin inaktiviert und hämophiles Blut *in vitro* normalisiert. Das konzentrierte Material weist eine gute Hitze-stabilität auf.

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Turnover of Prothrombin and Factors VII, IX and X in States of Hypocoagulability

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M. VERSTRAETE

It is remarkable that the disappearance rate of clotting factors is more rapid than that of most other plasma proteins. The half life of serum albumin is between 12 and 20 days (1-10) and even longer for gamma globulins (8-15). The half-life of fibrinogen however is 2.7-6.7 days (16-22) and of prothrombin 48-72 hours (23). The thrombocytes disappear also very rapidly from the peripheral circulation (life span = 10 days or less) (20, 23) in contrast to erythrocytes. We have established the half life and disappearance rate of prothrombin and factors VII, IX and X in a series of dogs after administration of a completely synthesis blocking dose of 3 different coumarin drugs. The results suggest that all coumarin drugs have the same rapidity of action after maximal dose administration (24).

It has been suggested that due to continuous coagulation a fibrin film covers the vascular endothelium (25-26) and this might be relevant to the maintenance of capillary permeability and prevention of haemorrhage. Several investigators have suggested that there might be a relationship between the rapid turnover of clotting factors and continuous haemostasis in vivo (17, 20, 27-32). The different arguments supporting this theory have been critically reviewed by HJORT AND HANSEN (23) and they have concluded that much of the evidence is conflicting.

It has been demonstrated that even small modifications of molecules decrease their half life (7). CARTER has suggested that similar structural changes occur in dogs during coumarin treat

*Aspirant of the N. F. W. O.

ment (32) The purpose of these investigations was to know if the half life of the various coumarin sensitive clotting factors was different before exposure of the dogs to coumarin derivatives (normal starting level of coagulation factors) and during coumarin administration (reduced starting level of coagulation factors)

Methods

The same methods as described before (33) were used.

A series of 5 dogs were given massive loading and maintenance doses of phenprocoumon (dogs 4, 10, 11 and 12) or ethyl-biscoumatate (dog 17). The half-life of the various coumarin sensitive clotting factors was followed as previously described (33). After 4 to 5 days 30 mg vitamin K_2 was administered intravenously while the same maintenance dose of the coumarin drug was continued. The first of the second series of blood samples was taken 9 hours after vitamin K_2 administration. The half-life of the various clotting factors was determined again.

Results

The results are summarised in table I. The upper part of the table corresponds to the turnover determined with normal (100%) starting levels of the clotting factors concerned and the middle part to turnover studies assessed with reduced starting levels. More

Table I

Half-life in hours of different clotting factors, determined after administration of massive doses phenprocoumon (experiments 4, 10, 11 and 12) or ethyl-biscoumatate (experiment 17) on normal dogs (upper third) and in the same dogs, maintained in a state of decreased coagulation (second third).

	Exp.	F VII	F X	F IX	Proth.	F VII plus X	F II plus X	P and P test
A)	4	-	16.4	13.9	41.9	8.4	30.9	11.6
	10	7.46	22.3	11.3	64.2	14.8	46.5	20.4
	11	4.4	15.8	-	41.4	9.3	33.0	10.8
	12	3.91	17.4	16.9	48.0	9.8	36.7	13.4
	17	-	14.6	-	36.6	-	31.0	-
B)	4	-	16.4	17.7	38.6	11.9	33.9	15.1
	10	5.4	17.7	11.2	36.6	9.7	33.4	15.5
	11	6.3	14.8	-	31.1	9.6	32.6	14.3
	12	4.0	12.6	15.9	32.3	10.0	33.9	9.3
	17	-	14.0	-	32.2	-	32.9	-
mean of A		5.9	17.3	14.0	46.4	10.6	33.6	14.4
mean of B		5.2	15.1	14.9	34.4	10.3	34.2	13.6

The low activity of the factor concerned, at the beginning of the experiment B did not allow a valuable measurement of the half-life.

Konink, made available through the courtesy of Dr F VANDENDALL, Roche Company Brussels.

Table II

Values of the different assays determined at the beginning and end of the two series of experiments in the different dogs. The (A) experiments were started in normal dogs, the (B) experiments in the same dogs with an induced state of decreased coagulation.

Experiment	Quick-time	Prothrombin test III	F VII %	F VII plus X %	F X %	Prothrombin %	F IX %	F II plus X %
4 (A) Beginning	6.6	115	105	100	90	103	112	110
End	1.27	5	<1	<1	<1	11.8	<1	6.4
(B) Beginning	9.3	26	10.4	36.8	40	36.5	49	31.4
End	1.7	<5	<1	<1	<1	<5	1	3.5
10 (A) Beginning	7.6	98	77	200	79	85	91	82
End	20.9	8.1	<1	7.5	4.6	32	1.6	20
(B) Beginning	8.3	36	18	40	37	33	43	33
End	1.17	<5	<1	3.4	1.1	3.4	<1	3.4
11 (A) Beginning	7.3	94	77	80	51	100	82	84
End	24.8	<5	<1	4	1.8	20.5	2	12
(B) Beginning	8.4	33.5	33.5	47	40	42.6	36	34.7
End	1.09	<5	<1	2.5	1.3	5.6	3	6
12 (A) Beginning	7.3	86	50	125	50	75	105	68
End	20.7	7.8	<1	3.4	1.8	18	3	12.8
(B) Beginning	8.8	60	8.1	32.7	85	32.3	36	33
End	2.13	<5	<1	<1	6.8	<5	1.5	10.5
17 (A) Beginning	7	100	65	88	74	110	82	90
End	38.7	<5	<1	2.7	0.9	16.3	5	11.5
(B) Beginning	10.3	19	6.7	19	10	35	20.5	21
End	34.3	<5	<1	2.3	0.6	13.8	5	9

details on the impaired coagulation of the dogs at the beginning of the second part of the experiment are given in table II where the values obtained at the beginning and end of each experiment are reported for the several dogs.

In only one dog (dog 12) is the starting level of the various clotting factors over 50% of normal. All end values in the second half (i. e. after vitamin K₃ administration) of the experiments are even lower than the corresponding values in the first half of the experiment. A state of hypocoagulability was therefore obtained at the beginning of the second half of the experiments and it was presumed that the postulated continuous *in vivo* coagulation would therefore be retarded compared to the normal coagulation state.

As can be seen in the lower part of table I no significant difference was found in the half life determinations in both parts of the experiment. If the logarithm of the disappearance is plotted against time, a straight line is obtained for all clotting factors. As the slope of the disappearance for prothrombin remains constant even when

the 3 other clotting factors are very markedly decreased and bleeding occurs, additional evidence is obtained that prothrombin disappears from the circulation at constant rate independently of the other three clotting factors.

Discussion

The hypothesis of continuous intravascular coagulation has frequently been proposed (17, 20, 27, 32) but so far no evidence has been offered that the turnover of clotting factors was slower in patients with permanent and severe blood clotting disorders. ADELSON has even found that the half life of fibrinogen does not change during dicoumarol administration (20). Transfusion experiments in patients with a congenital deficiency of a given clotting factor give half-life determinations equal or even shorter than those obtained in normal persons during coumarin administration (34, 35, 36). After blocking of the liver synthesis by large doses of Warfarin, in a patient with severe haemophilia A, HJORT *et al.* could prove that the turnover of factor VII was normal. It was probably also normal for prothrombin and factor IX (37). In a similar experimental procedure, the administration of heparin could not change the disappearance rate of proconvertin and of prothrombin (38).

The finding of similar half lives in dogs with normal coagulation or a state of hypocoagulation suggests that no changes in the molecular structure of the concerned coagulation factors occurred after the first poisoning of the dogs with huge doses of coumarin drugs.

It has to be mentioned that HOAG (39) found a higher disappearance rate of factor VII concentrate in patients with a coagulation defect (*i. e.* congenital hypoproconvertinemia) compared to normal individuals.

An important difference between both groups is however that one is producing factor VII and the other is not. The possibility remains that in one experiment the half life of factor VII concentrate alone is determined and in the second experiment on normal patients, the combined half-life of the concentrate and the endogenous production of factor VII is measured; this could explain the difference between the two experiments.

Summary

The investigations were based on the working hypothesis that structural changes of clotting factors might be induced during coumarin administration and shorten their half-life. The results indicate that the half-life of coumarin sensitive clotting factors in dogs before and during exposure to coumarin derivatives are similar in both states.

Résumé

Les recherches sont basées sur une hypothèse de travail selon laquelle le traitement par al coumarine produit des modifications de la structure des facteurs de la coagulation, qui raccourcissent leur durée de vie. Les résultats démontrent que des facteurs sensibles à la coumarine du chien ont une même durée de vie avant et après le traitement à la coumarine.

Zusammenfassung

Die Untersuchungen basieren auf der Arbeitshypothese, daß bei Coumarin-Behandlung Strukturveränderungen der Gerinnungsfaktoren auftreten, die ihre Lebensdauer verkürzen. Die Ergebnisse zeigen, dass Coumarin-empfindliche Gerinnungsfaktoren beim Hund vor und während Coumarin-Zufuhr die gleiche Lebensdauer aufweisen.

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Lebendbeobachtungen über Bildung und Schicksal des Rabl'schen Polarfeldes in erythroblastischen Karyokinesen

Phasenkontrast-mikrokinematographische Untersuchungen

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UND E. MAGLIULO*

Bereits im Jahre 1885 hat CARL RABL (8) in seiner klassischen Arbeit über die Mitose der Epithelialzellen von Amphibien beobachtet, daß im prophasischen Knäuel und in der Knäuelphase der Kernrekonstruktion die chromatischen Fäden eine bestimmte polare Orientierung haben.

Er schrieb: Es ist gewiß kein Spiel des Zufalls, daß junge Tochterknäuel den Anfangsknäueln des Mutterkerns in ihrem Bau so außerordentlich ähnlich sehen. So wie sich ein Kern zur Teilung anschickt, oder aus einer Teilung hervortritt, läßt er ganz deutlich eine Polsseite und eine Gegenpolsseite erkennen, und an der Polsseite selbst wieder eine enger begrenzte Stelle, das Polarfeld. Die einzelnen Regionen werden durch den Verlauf der Fäden charakterisiert. Diese laufen von der Gegenpolsseite aus, ziehen nach der Polsseite und ins Polfeld, biegen hier schlingenförmig um und kehren wieder zur Gegenpolsseite zurück» (8, S. 322). Das Polarfeld, mit anderen Worten, wäre seine bestimmte, aber keineswegs scharf begrenzte Stelle, die durch den Verlauf der Fäden besonders charakterisiert wird (8, S. 266).

Gemäß den Beschreibungen RABLS verläuft die Mehrheit der Fäden im prophasischen Kern in der Nähe der Zelloberfläche, und nur ein kleiner Teil geht durch das Kerninnere. Die Winkel, die diese zum Polarfeld bilden, werden primäre Winkel oder polare Winkel genannt. Die zahlreichen unregelmäßigen Krümmungen und Biegungen, die die Fäden auf ihrem Verlauf aufweisen, heißen sekundäre Winkel. Die primären Winkel sind konstant und als solche erkennbar während des ganzen Mitoseprozesses. Sie umgeben in der Prophase das Polarfeld, begrenzen in der Metaphase das zentrale achromatische Feld des Mutterkerns, ergeben in der Anaphase die primären Winkel der Tochterchromosomen, welche dann ihrerseits das zentrale achromatische Feld der Tochterkerne begrenzen und später das Polarfeld der telophasischen Knäuel der Tochterzellen zustande bringen. Es ist vorauszusetzen, daß im interkinetischen Kern eine Spur der polaren Orientierung der Fäden zurückbleibt, welche jedesmal, wenn die Zelle in Mitose eintritt, wieder deutlich erscheint.

Erst vor kurzem ist es PALUMI (6) gelungen, in interkinetischen Kernen verschiedener Zelltypen die Existenz einer achromatischen Zone der Kernoberfläche von ihm "carlocentre" genannt, zu beweisen. Diese erscheint im allgemeinen als schmales Streifchen, umgeben von feinem Feulgen-positiven Körnchen (deren Zahl der Chromosomenzahl der untersuchten Zelltypen entspricht) mittels dünner Fäden mit den interkinetischen chromatinischen Strukturen verbunden. Außer an fixierten und gefärbten Präparaten ist eine solche Zone auch in interkinetischen Kernen von phasenoptisch untersuchten, *in vivo* überlebenden Zellen sichtbar in der Form einer unregelmäßigen, stark verlängerten Ellipse begrenzt von einer Umrislinie mit deutlicher Serienanordnung von stärker kontrastierten Teilchen, an denen die endonukleären chromatinischen Bildungen verankert sind. Nach PALUMI, der im großen und ganzen mit der RABLA'schen Hypothese übereinstimmt, stammt das "carlocentre" vom Polarfeld der triphasischen Figur und von diesem stammt wiederum höchstwahrscheinlich das prophasische Polarfeld und dann das zentrale achromatische Feld des metaphasischen Sterns ab.

Neuere Entstehung ist die Hypothese von EL und R. LITVÁK (3, 4, 5) über die Beständigkeit der chromosomalen Spindelfasern während der Interkinese. Nach diesen Autoren gehen diejenigen Fasern, welche das Centriolum mit den Chromosomen verbinden, den gleichen Verdoppelungserscheinungen entgegen wie diese letzteren und würden so für eine konstante Verbindung zwischen Polarcentren und Chromosomen sorgen. Die Kontraktion dieser immer bestehenden Fasern, im Fall eines extranukleären Centriolums, würde die Chromosomen verletzen mit ihren Zentromeren gegen die Kernmembran zu stoßen, die sogar dadurch deformiert werden könnte. Das Bestehen solcher Verbindungen, welche offensichtlich durch Löcher (wie sie übrigens am Elektronenmikroskop beobachtet wurden) der Kernmembran dringen, könnte uns die Begründung für die Wanderbewegungen der Chromosomen im Innern des prophasischen Kerns liefern. In der späten Telophase würden diese Fasern ihren Spannungszustand verlieren, aber dank ihrer Beständigkeit wären sie verantwortlich für die Polarisierungserscheinungen von RABLA, da die Chromosomen dann erste Orientierung annehmen, die während der Interkinese bis zur darauffolgenden Prophase erhalten bleiben sollte. Diese Vorgänge könnten in ähnlicher Weise auch in Zellen mit einem intranukleären Anordnungscentrum erfolgen. Auch in diesem Fall würden die RABLA'sche Orientierung und die gegen das Kernzentrum gerichteten Bewegungen der Chromosomen erklärt werden.

Mit der vorliegenden Studie haben wir uns vorgenommen, erythroblastische Zellen von Triton in Karyokinese zu studieren. Diese Zellen sind sehr günstig für die morphologische Untersuchung am lebenden Objekt hinsichtlich der Entstehung und Entwicklung des Polarfeldes während der Karyokinese und auch hinsichtlich dessen Schicksal in den interkinetischen Kernen der zwei Tochterzellen nach der Zellteilung. Zu diesem Zweck haben wir zuerst eine Reihe normaler Mitosen im Phasenkontrastmikroskop untersucht, anschließend haben wir die Analyse auf karyokinetiche Prozesse ausgedehnt, welche doppelkernige Zellen ergeben hatten (9) und schließlich auch auf pathologische Mitosen, bei welchen man Kernrekonstruktionen aus metaphasischen Figuren, die in ihrer weiteren Entwicklung aufgehalten wurden, beobachtet hatte (11). Die hier

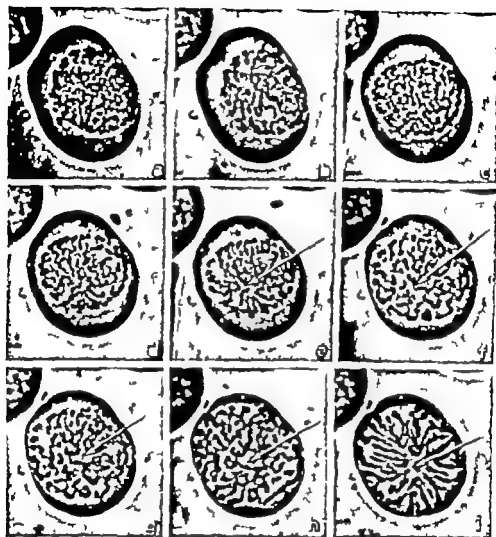


Abb. 1. Erythroblastische Mitose von Triton. Prophase und Metaphase Zeitfolge in Minuten der einzelnen Aufnahmen 0 b 12 19 d 27 38 f 42 g 44; h 46 i 57 Gesamtvergrößerung ca. 800

aufgeführten Beobachtungen sind mit Serienmikrophotographien aus mikrokineamatographischen Aufnahmen dokumentiert

Material und Methoden

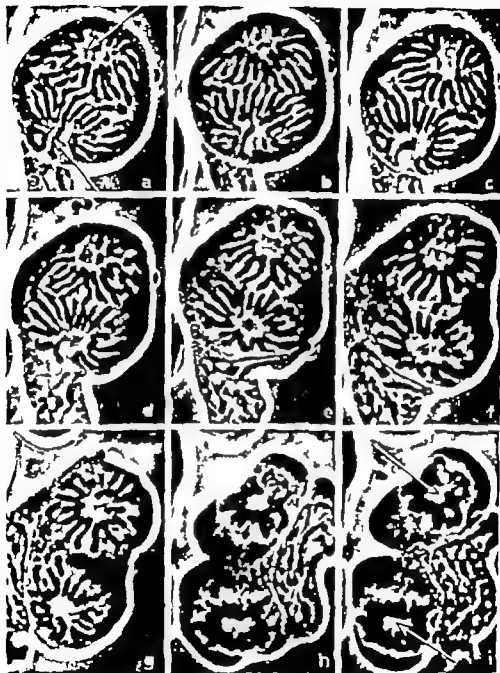
Die von uns untersuchten Zellen stammen aus Deckglaskulturen des peripheren Blutes von Triton (*Molge vulgaris* L.) in erythroblastischer Regeneration (2, 10). Die Karyokinese der Abb. 8, die in einer metaphasischen Kernrekonstruktion endet, stammt von einem mit Benzol behandelten Tier (11).

Die mikrokinematographischen Aufnahmen wurden mit einem Zeiß-Siemens-16-mm-Apparat ausgeführt. Mit einer thermostatischen Einrichtung wurde die Temperatur der Präparate während der Aufnahme konstant auf 26 °C gehalten. Okular 6,3 × Objektiv Zeiß-Neofluar Ph, Öffnungszahl 100 × Vergrößerungsfaktor unserer Apparatur ca. 0,5 endgültige Vergrößerung auf dem Film ca. 300 × Die Photographien wurden mit einer zusätzlichen Vergrößerung auf dem Film gedruckt, die in den Erläuterungen zu den einzelnen Abbildungen als Gesamtvergrößerung angegeben wird.

Ergebnisse

Normale Erythroblasten-Mitose

1 Von der Prophase zur Metaphase Die ersten 5 Photogramme der Abb 1 (a-e) zeigen den Verlauf der Prophase in einer Erythroblasten-Mitose. Im Stadium des dichten Knäuels ist es unmöglich, eine Orientierung der Chromosom-Fäden wahrzunehmen. Diese erscheinen fein verknüpft und ohne Ordnung ineinander geschlungen. In Abb 1d wo die Chromosomen kürzer und dicker geworden sind, ist eine Andeutung von polarer Orientierung der Chromosomen zu sehen, während in Abb 1e, welche kurz vor der Auflösung der Kernmembran aufgenommen wurde, die polare Orientierung deutlich sichtbar ist. Im Kernzentrum erkennt man eine unregelmäßige Zone, die von keiner besonderen Struktur begrenzt wird, aber durch das periphere Zusammenlaufen einer gewissen Anzahl primärer Winkel von Chromosomen gekennzeichnet ist, was dem Polarfeld von Rabl entsprechen sollte. Die Abb 1f, g und h zeigen deutlich, wie das prophasische polare Feld sich während der Metakinese verwandelt, bis daraus das zentrale achromatische Feld des metaphasischen Sterns entsteht (Abb 1i) Nach dem Verschwinden der Kernmembran wird der Verkürzungs- und Verdichtungsprozeß der Chromosomen zunehmend deutlicher. Die sekundären Krümmungen der Arme werden immer spärlicher bis sie schließlich ganz verschwinden. Die primären Winkel der Chromosom-Schleifen treten hingegen deutlicher hervor und verschieben sich in solcher Weise, daß sie sich regelmäßig um die Zone des Polarfeldes gliedern, während sich die Schenkel strahlenförmig anordnen, wobei ihre freien Enden gegen die Zellperipherie gerichtet sind. Das Polarfeld anfänglich nur vom Zusammentreffen eines Teils der Primärwinkel der Chromosom-Schleifen bestimmt, verwandelt sich dann allmählich im Verlauf der Metakinese und wird zum Zentrum, gegen das alle Primärwinkel der Schleifen zusammenlaufen. So entsteht die typische Figur des metaphasischen Sterns.

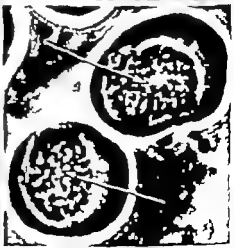
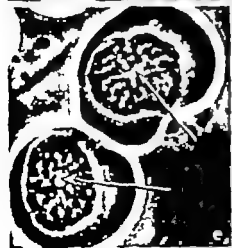
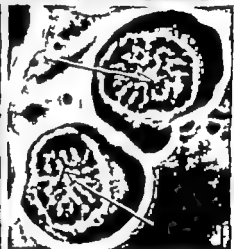


144. Erythroblastische Mitose von Triton. Anaphase und Telo phase Zeitfolge in Minuten der einzelnen Aufnahmen 0 b 5 10 d 14 16 f 17 g 21 h 24 25. Gesamtvergrößerung ca. 1300

2 *Von der Anaphase zur Kernrekonstruktion* Die Abb 2 zeigt die Anaphase (a-g) und die Telophase (h, i) einer Erythroblasten-Mitose. Im Zentrum der Tochtersterne sind die zentralen achromatischen Felder gut sichtbar um die die Schenkel der Chromosom-Schleifen regelmäßig strahlenförmig angeordnet sind. Diese nähern sich einander nach und nach und werden kürzer und dicker. Das zentrale achromatische Feld verkleinert sich immer mehr, bis die chromatische Figur durch eine zunehmende Konglutination der Chromosomen das Bild einer kompakten, ringförmigen Masse von ungleicher Dichte und unregelmäßigen Grenzen annimmt, in welcher keine Spur der Chromosomen mehr sichtbar ist, außer am Rand, aus welchem noch die freien, nicht zusammengeschmolzenen Enden von einigen Chromosomen auftauchen (Stadium des «kompakten Sterns» 2).

Die Abb 3 zeigt die aufeinanderfolgenden Stadien der Kernrekonstruktion. In Abb 3a haben sich die beiden Tochterzellen eben gelöst. Ihre Kerne haben noch das oben beschriebene Aussehen von ringförmigen Massen mit unregelmäßigen Umrissen, ohne innere Struktur. Die Chromosomen sind nicht mehr sichtbar, doch ragen noch einige freie Enden hervor. Die Kernmembran ist erst in Abb. 3b sichtbar. Zu diesem Zeitpunkt sind die Kernkonturen regelmäßiger geworden und im Innern erscheint eine Andeutung von Struktur. Das Polarfeld ist immer im Kernzentrum als kleine, stark leuchtende Zone sichtbar, rundlich im oberen, ovalförmig im unteren Kern.

Abb 3c zeigt die beiden Zellen in einem weit fortgeschrittenen Stadium der Rekonstruktion: die Kernkonturen sind endgültig regelmäßig geworden, das Chromatin hat eine feinmaschige Struktur angenommen, obwohl eine strahlenförmige Orientierung der dichtesten Chromatin-Balken feststellbar ist, welche von der Peripherie her gegen das Rabfische Feld hin zusammenlaufen. Das Polarfeld hat sich merklich verringert, vor allem im unteren Kern. Oben, am Umriß des oberen Kernes ist eine kleine Delle sichtbar geblieben. Eine andere ist gegenüber sichtbar. Es ist jedoch nicht festzustellen, ob eine der beiden dem «Hilus» von RETZIUS entspricht, oder ob es Einschnitte sind, die auf besondere Umstände der Kernrekonstruktion zurückzuführen sind, wie z.B. Druck des Deckglases. Am Umriß des unteren Kernes ist andererseits keinerlei Einbuchtung sichtbar.



Die Abb 3d, e, f, nacheinander im Abstand einer Stunde aufgenommen, zeigen die weitere Wiederanordnung der endonukleären Strukturen. Die strahlenförmige Orientierung des Chromatin-Gerüsts ist immer weniger sichtbar das RABISCHE Feld schwindet noch mehr bis zur Unkenntlichkeit, wenigstens im unteren Kern. Im oberen bleibt hingegen eine kleine klare zentrale Zone von länglicher Form, deren größere Achse mit der des Kerns zusammenfällt und welche den interkinetischen Rest des RABISCHEN Feldes darstellt.

Selten haben wir Anaphase, Telophase und Kernrekonstruktion «*am Profil*» betrachten können. Ein solches Beispiel findet sich in Abb 4. Während der Prophase, die keine Besonderheiten aufwies, war die polare Orientierung der Chromosomen nicht darzustellen. Sie war auch nach Auflösung der Kernmembran nicht zu erkennen die Chromosomen befanden sich in der Zelle ohne jegliche Ordnung. Sie verschoben sich ständig, so daß sich das Aussehen der chromatischen Figur fortwährend änderte. Ob ein dem metaphasischen Stern entsprechendes Stadium auftrat, auch nur «*am Profil*» betrachtet, war nicht mit Sicherheit festzustellen. Vielmehr gewannen wir den Eindruck eines Überganges von einer eindeutig metakinetischen Anordnung zu der in Abb 4a dargestellten Anordnung wo auf beiden Seiten der Zelle die Bildung von zwei Polarfeldern deutlich erkennbar ist, und die Chromosomen mit ihren Schenkeln sich so zu gliedern beginnen, daß sie das Profil der beiden Tochtersterne entwerfen. Die Abb 4b c und d zeigen die polare Wanderung bei einer solchen Anordnung der Zellen und nur die Hälften der beiden Tochtersterne sichtbar. Die Abb 4e und f entsprechen der Telophase. Die Erscheinung der telophasischen Pseudokonglutination der Chromosomen ist auch hier deutlich sichtbar. Die Delle die die beiden chromatischen Figuren auf der der Teilungsebene der Zellen entgegengesetzten Seite aufweisen, stellt den Umriss um den hellen zentralen Raum – das telophasische Polarfeld – dar. Es folgt die Kernrekonstruktion (Abb 4g h i) während der die chromatische Figur immer mehr an Volumen zunimmt. Dieses Anwachsen führt zum Verschwinden der oben beschriebenen Einbuchtung an der polaren Seite der beiden Tochter

Abb. 3. Derselbe Zelle von Abb. 2. Kernrekonstruktion. Zeitfolge in Minuten der einzelnen Aufnahmen: 27; b 29 39 d 60 120 f 180 Gesamtvergrößerung ca. 1500



Abb 4 Erythroblastische Mitose von Triton. Anaphase und Telophase. Profil-Ansicht. Zeitfolge in Minuten der einzelnen Aufnahmen: 0 b 8 13 d 17 19 f 21 g 26 h 29 i 32. Gesamtvergrößerung ca. 800 \times

kerne so daß im Stadium von Abb 4i die polare und die gegen polare Seite nicht zu unterscheiden sind. Die Chromatingerüste sind bei Beginn der Rekonstruktion (Abb 4g) parallel zur kleineren Achse der Kerne gerichtet, was der strahlenförmigen Gliederung entspricht, die bei der Rekonstruktion der Kerne der Abb 3 beobachtet wurde. Parallel zur fortschreitenden Kernrekonstruktion ver

schwindet diese Anordnung, bis sie ganz unkenntlich wird wie im rechts unten gelegenen Kern der Abb 4 L.

Beispiele von abnormen Karyokinesen

1 *Bildung von binukleären Zellen* (Abb 5 6 7) Die 9 Photogramme der Abb 5 zeigen die Etappen der Anaphase bis zur Kernrekonstruktion in einer Erythroblasten Karyokinese, der keine Zellteilung folgt, so daß eine binukleäre Zelle zustande kommt, deren Entstehungsart schon anderswo eingehend besprochen wurde (9). Obschon es sich um eine atypische Mitose in bezug auf das Endresultat handelt, erscheint der Zyklus der chromatischen Figur ganz normal. tatsächlich beobachtet man nacheinander die anaphasischen Tochtersterne, die telophasische Pseudokonglutination der Chromosome, das Wiedererscheinen der interkinetischen Chromatinstruktur. Besonderes Interesse verdient aber die Entwicklung des Rab'schen Polarfeldes. In Abb 5 f ist es durch eine unregelmäßig ovale, helle Zone von beachtlichem Ausmaß im Kernzentrum dargestellt, die nach der größeren Kernachse ausgerichtet ist. Gleich zeitig mit dem Fortschreiten der Kernrekonstruktion schrumpft diese Zone zusammen, aber die Reduktion erfolgt vor allem auf Kosten des kleineren Durchmessers, so daß sich das ursprüngliche Rab'sche Feld (Abb 5 h und i) am Ende in ein ganz dünnes, helles Streifchen verwandelt hat, welches immer noch nach der größeren Achse des Kerns ausgerichtet bleibt. Das Streifchen erscheint umgeben von einer dunklen, ununterbrochenen Linie, längs der einige granuläre Verdickungen sichtbar sind. Diese sind durch feine Fäden mit den Chromatin-Strängen des Kerngerüsts verbunden. Andererseits sieht man auch größere Chromatin Balken in Verbindung mit jener Linie, die die oben beschriebene helle zentrale Zone begrenzt. In Abb 6 werden die Photogramme h und i der Abb 5 bei stärkerer Vergrößerung wiedergegeben. Die Pfeile deuten die Reste der Polarfelder an. Auch die Abb 7 zeigt eine atypische Mitose mit Entstehung einer doppelkernigen Zelle, deren Genese schon anderswo beschrieben und diskutiert wurde (9). Hier ist zu betonen, daß auf ähnliche Weise wie bei der vorhergehenden Beobachtung die Entwicklung und der Zyklus der chromatischen Figur völlig normal ist, und vor allem, daß bei vollendeter Kernrekonstruktion im Zentrum der beiden Kerne eine klare Zone bleibt, welche zweifellos vom zentralen achromatischen Feld der Tochtersterne stammt. Im





Abb. 6. Die Photogramme h und i der Abb. 5 bei stärkerer Vergrößerung (ca. 1600 \times)

oberen Kern hat diese Zone eine längliche Form ist nach der größeren Kernachse ausgerichtet und von einer dünnen, dunklen, ununterbrochenen Linie umrandet, in die einige der größten Chromatin Balken zusammenlaufen. Es fehlen hingegen die granulären Verdickungen, welche im vorübergehenden Beispiel sichtbar waren. Im unteren Kern wiederholen sich die Merkmale der hellen zentralen Zone des oberen Kernes, ausgenommen in der hier runden Form.

2. *Rekonstruktion eines interkinetischen Kernes aus der metaphasischen Platte* (Abb 8) Die morphologische Untersuchung von Zellveränderungen durch Benzol, Gegenstand einer anderen Arbeit (11) gab uns Gelegenheit, die Entwicklung des zentralen achromatischen Feldes während einer pathologischen Karyokinese zu verfolgen. Diese wird durch die Wirkung des Gifts in der Metaphase aufgehalten, und endet in einer metaphasischen Kernrekonstruktion wahrscheinlich mit tetraploidem Chromosomensatz. Bis zur Bildung des metaphasischen Sterns (Abb 8a und b) wies die Karyokinese keine Besonderheiten auf. Anschließend anstatt daß die polare Wanderung erfolgte, konglutinierten die Chromosome zunehmend und

Abb. 5. Bildung einer erythroblastischen zweikernigen Zelle von Trilon. (Aus Rosdarselli et al., 9) Zellfolge in Minuten der einzelnen Aufnahmen: 0 b 27; 68 d 82; 87; f 106 g 125 h 139 i 175. Gesamtvergrößerung ca. 800 \times

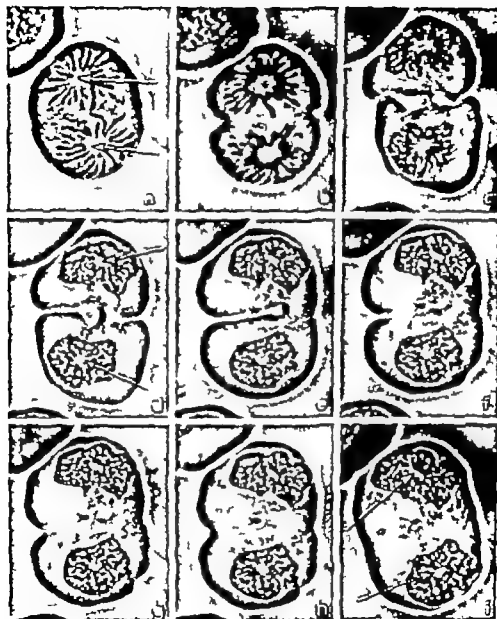


Abb. 7 Bildung einer erythroblastischen zweikernigen Zelle von Triton. (Aus RONDINELLI et al. 9) Zeitfolge in Minuten der einzelnen Aufnahmen: a b 8 57
d 50 90 f 105 g 125 h 130 150, Gesamtvergrößerung ca. 750 ×

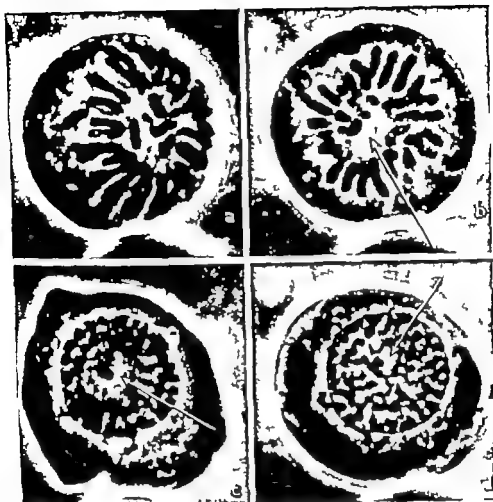


Abb. 8 Metaphasche Kernrekonstruktion bei Benzolvergiftung von Triton. (Aus KORDAKELLI et al., 11) Zeitfolge in Minuten der einzelnen Aufnahmen: a 0 b 30 c 65 d 97 Gesamtvergrößerung ca. 1700 \times

bildeten eine einzige ringförmige Masse um die herum bald die Kernmembran entstand (Abb 8c) Im Zentrum des so rekonstruierten Kerns blieb der Rest des zentralen achromatischen Feldes als kleine, helle Zone von länglicher Form mit unregelmäßigen und undeutlichen Konturen gut sichtbar Eine halbe Stunde nach der Aufnahme der Abb. 8c kann die Rekonstruktion des Kerns als endgültig abgeschlossen betrachtet werden (Abb 8 d) Dennoch er

kennt man im Kernzentrum noch die vorher beschriebene kleine, helle Zone, obwohl sie nun eine rundliche Form angenommen hat und merklich kleiner geworden ist.

Diskussion

1 *In allen von uns während der Phase des dichten Knäuels untersuchten Mitosen war es nie möglich, eine polare Orientierung der Chromosomen und die Existenz einer Zone die als Polarfeld betrachtet werden könnte mit Sicherheit zu belegen.* Das könnte damit zusammenhängen daß nicht gleichzeitig beide Zellseiten beobachtet werden können. Man kann sich auch denken daß die Orientierung der prophasischen Chromosomen in den Erythroblasten zunächst markiert sei, und daß erst später im Stadium des lockeren Knäuels wegen der zunehmenden Verkürzung der einzelnen Chromosomen und der Abnahme der Zahl der sekundären Biegungen sich die polare Orientierung und das Polarfeld abzeichnen. Auf Grund der Ergebnisse der vorliegenden Untersuchung gibt es jedoch keine gültigen Argumente, die diese Hypothese stützen. Es ist aber auch nicht anzunehmen daß die polare Orientierung der Chromosomen und das Polarfeld sich «de novo» während der späten Prophase bilden.

2 *Die polare Orientierung und das Polarfeld sind zu verschiedenen Zeitpunkten während der zweiten Hälfte der Prophase d. h. während der Phase des lockeren Knäuels wahrzunehmen.* Auch JOLLY (2) und TÖRÖCK (14) haben bei ihren Untersuchungen von fixierten und gefärbten Erythroblasten von Triton das Polarfeld erst in karyokinetischen Figuren, die diesem Stadium entsprechen, beobachtet. Wir können ferner beifügen, daß während in gewissen Fällen die polare Orientierung schon einige Minuten vor der Auflösung der Kernmembran sichtbar ist, ist sie in anderen Fällen auch im Augenblick der Kernmembranauflösung (wenn überhaupt erst nachher) nur mit Mühe zu erkennen. Auch dies könnte einerseits von der verschiedenen Orientierung des Kerns, andererseits von einer effektiven Veränderung im Auftreten der polaren Orientierung abhängen.

3. *In günstig ausgerichteten Zellen erscheint das Polarfeld in der späten Prophase und besonders während der Metakinese als rundlicher Raum, im Zentrum der chromatischen Figur gelegen, begrenzt durch die Primärwinkel der Chromosomenschleifen.* Wir können nicht mit Gewißheit behaupten, ob tatsächlich alle Primärwinkel um das Polarfeld herum zusammenlaufen, oder ob dieses um sich nur einen Teil davon versam-

melt, weil es in diesem Stadium mit dem Phasenkontrastmikroskop unmöglich ist, die verschiedenen Chromosomen einzeln zu verfolgen und vor allem mit Genauigkeit alle Scheitel der dem Polarfeld entsprechenden Chromosomenschleifen zu zählen. Nach Beginn der Metakinese, wenn die Chromosomen schon eine merkliche Verkürzung und Verdickung aufweisen und sich die Schenkel der Schleifen immer mehr gegen die Zellperipherie ausstrecken, befreit sich auch der Grundboden des Polarfeldes von den Fäden, die ihn vorher bedeckten und durch die gleichzeitige Verschiebung einiger Schleifen in exzentrischer Richtung verwandelt sich das Polarfeld in einen unregelmäßig zylindrischen Raum, der die chromatische Figur von einem Teil zum andern durchquert.

Bei sorgfältigem Drehen der Mikrometerschraube kann die Achse dieses Raumes, wenn sie der optischen Achse des Mikroskops entspricht, ohne Mühe von einer Seite zur anderen verfolgt werden. Beim selben Vorgehen bekommt man ferner den Eindruck, daß die ganze chromatische Figur im Achseninnern des beiden zentralen Räume langsam zusammengedrückt wird. Folglich kann nun auch von der gegenpolaren Seite der Zelle das Polarfeld gesehen werden, da die distalen Portionen der Chromosomenschleifen, die es ursprünglich markierten, jetzt nicht mehr vorhanden sind. Obigens hatte schon RAAB behauptet, daß man zu einem gewissen Zeitpunkt nicht mehr von polarem und gegenpolarem Teil sprechen kann. Durch eine allmähliche Verschiebung der Chromosomenschleifen verwandelt sich nämlich auch der gegenpolare Teil so, daß er dem ursprünglich eben polaren Teil sehr ähnlich wird und von diesem Moment an weist der Kern zwei einander gegenüberliegende Polarfelder auf (vgl. RAAB, 8, S. 242).

Denkt man nun an die räumliche Organisation des Kernes im Stadium des lockeren Knäuels oder der Metakinese, so versteht man leicht, daß in zahlreichen Fällen die oben beschriebenen Einzelheiten der Orientierung der Chromosome nicht gut zu beobachten sind. Es genügt in der Tat, daß die Achse des zentralen Raumes leicht schief zur optischen Achse des Mikroskops steht oder daß auch ein sehr geringer Druck einige Chromosomenschleifen verschoben hat, um die Möglichkeit einzuschränken, solche delikate strukturelle Einzelheiten ausfindig zu machen.

4 *Am Ende der Metakinese wird die oben geschilderte helle Zone zum achromatischen Zentrum des metaphasischen Sterns.* In den von uns beobachteten Erythroblasten Mitosen gelangt man tatsächlich zu einem Stadium, das einer sternförmigen Figur entspricht, deren Hauptebene (Teilungsebene) parallel zur Ebene des Objektträgers liegt. Das Sternzentrum wird durch einen rundlichen hellen Raum von relativ geringer Dichte gebildet begrenzt durch die Scheitel der Chromosomenschleifen. Die sekundären Biegungen der Chromosomen sind nun fast vollständig verschwunden die Arme erstrecken sich strahlenförmig mit ihren freien Enden gegen die Peripherie, wie die Stäbe eines geöffneten Schirms. Erst in diesem Zeitpunkt kann mit Sicherheit behauptet werden, daß sich alle Scheitel der Chromo-

somschleifen rund um das zentrale achromatische Feld ansammeln, (außer natürlich in Fällen von anormalen Metaphasen, über die wir jedoch hier nicht berichten)

Mit unserer Beobachtungstechnik kommt man fast immer zu einem der oben beschriebenen Stadien welche auch immer die anfängliche Orientierung der Zelle gewesen sein mag wenn auch die Figur des metaphasischen Sterns nicht in allen Fällen so deutlich ist wie z.B. in Abb 11. Diese Erscheinung muß sehr wahrscheinlich auf besondere Umstände innerhalb der Zelle zurückgeführt werden welche, wenn auch nur leicht, zwischen Objektträger und Deckglas zusammengedrückt ist. Deshalb ordnet sich die chromatische Figur so an, daß die Ebene in der sie sich vornehmlich entwickelt senkrecht zur Richtung der auf sie drückenden Kraft d. h. parallel zur Glasebene liegt. Es ist tatsächlich vorstellbar daß der prophasische Kern mit seiner ungefähr sphärischen Form irgendwelche Lage in bezug auf die Gläser annehmen kann da sich aber seine Form allmählich ändert von einer kugelförmigen zu einer zusammengedrückten wird der Kern die oben geschilderte Stellung einnehmen.

Wenn man wie JOLLY Präparate mit einem kleinen Abstand zwischen Objektträger und Deckglas verwendet wird der oben beschriebene metaphasische Stern nur selten sichtbar da die chromatische Figur nicht komprimiert wird. Jedoch ist bei solchen Präparaten die Klarheit des Phasenkontrastbildes so sehr beeinträchtigt daß keine Mikrophotographien oder Mikrofilmaufnahmen angefertigt werden können.

5 *Im Moment der polaren Wanderung entstehen aus dem zentralen achromatischen Feld des Muttersterns die zentralen achromatischen Felder der Tochtersterne.* Hat sich nun ein typisch metaphasischer Stern gebildet, erhält man den Eindruck, daß, wenn sich die Tochterchromosomen endgültig getrennt haben, ein Tochterstern auf dem andern in Richtung auf einen Pol der Zelle hin gleitet, während sich der andere Tochterstern in entgegengesetzter Richtung verschiebt. Die entsprechenden Stellungen der primären Winkel der Chromosomschleifen werden im allgemeinen beibehalten, so daß keine merkliche Deformation des zentralen achromatischen Feldes vorkommt, während die Schenkel der Chromosomschleifen verschiedene Verschiebungen ausführen können. Fast durchwegs entsteht jedoch ein mehr oder weniger typischer Diaster mit sehr gut sichtbarem zentralem achromatischem Feld und strahlenförmig rund herum angeordneten Chromosomschenkeln. Selten haben wir eine Rotation des metaphasischen Sterns festgestellt, eine Erscheinung, bei der dieser sich aus einer zur Ebene der Gläser parallelen Lage seitlich um 90° vor der polaren Wanderung dreht, und zwar so, daß auch die Tochtersterne diese Lage beibehalten.

6 *Der Anfang der Kernrekonstruktion wird durch eine Konglutination der einzelnen Chromosomen der Tochtersterne charakterisiert, so daß sich diese in ringförmige strukturlose Massen mit unregelmäßigen Rändern (Stadium des kompakten Sterns von JOLLY) verwandeln.* Es handelt sich um eine

schon an Erythroblasten von Triton beobachtete Erscheinung so von Тёрёк (14) und JOLLY (2) dieser letztere hat ferner bemerkt, daß in normalen Mitosen die Teilung der Tochterzellen stets dann vorkommt, nachdem die chromatische Figur dieses Aussehen schon angenommen hat. Diese Pseudokonglutination der Chromosome bei der Bildung des kompakten Sterns wurde von uns auch in den mitotischen Prozessen aus welchen doppelkernige Zellen entstanden, wenn auch mit geringerer Deutlichkeit festgestellt. Es ist deshalb naheliegend, an eine Erscheinung zu denken, die dem Entwicklungszyklus der Chromosome eigen ist, der erste Schritt nämlich der Verwandlungen, die zur Rekonstruktion des interkinetischen Kerns führen und dies unabhängig von eventuellen Veränderungen der zytoplasmatischen Dynamik und der Mechanismen, welche die Anordnung des chromatischen Materials in den Tochterkernen regeln.

Während der gesamten Kernrekonstruktionsphase falls die Zelle günstig liegt ist innerhalb des Kerns der Rest des zentralen achromatischen Feldes des Tochtersterns sichtbar (telophasisches Polarfeld). Bei abgeschlossener Rekonstruktion ist dieses hingegen nur in wenigen Zellen sichtbar während es im allgemeinen nicht mit Sicherheit nachgewiesen werden kann. Während der Phase des "kompakten Sterns" sieht der Rest des telophasischen Polarfeldes wie eine kleine helle Zone mit unregelmäßigem Rand aus, welche durch keine spezifische Struktur begrenzt wird. In einigen seltenen Fällen erscheint es später jedoch umgeben von einer dünnen Membran, wie in den Beispielen der doppelkernigen Zellen von Abb. 4 und 5. Während der Kern allmählich das balken netzförmige Aussehen des interkinetischen Zustandes annimmt, verkleinert sich in der Regel die helle Zone, bis sie meistens nicht mehr sicher festgestellt werden kann. Manchmal bleibt sie aber sichtbar wie beispielsweise in der oberen Zelle von Abb. 3c, und in der metaphasischen Rekonstruktion der Abb. 8, auch wenn der nukleäre Rekonstruktionsvorgang als abgeschlossen bezeichnet werden darf.

Man gewinnt tatsächlich den Eindruck, daß die ringförmige Masse, die den kompakten Stern bildet bei fortschreitender Kernrekonstruktion aufquillt, während der Rest des zentralen achromatischen Feldes des Tochtersterns sich langwurz, während der Kern wieder sphärische Form annimmt, in einen mehr oder weniger großen Spalt er wandelt, der den Kern von einem Ende zum anderen durchzieht. Man überzeugt sich am besten von dieser Erscheinung mittels direkter Beobachtung der Zelle in günstiger Lage, indem man diese langsam von oben nach unten und umgekehrt bei sorgfältigem Drehen der Mikrometerschraube beobachtet. Dieser Spalt bildet sich allmählich mit

nachemender Verwandelung der Kernstruktur zurück, ohne daß er jedoch zu existieren aufhört. Es ist tatsächlich so, daß die mangelhafte Berücksichtigung des telophasischen Polarfeldes, wie es in der Mehrzahl der Fälle vorkommt von der Verdichtung des endonukleären Gerüsts abhängig ist welche es von den anderen Maschen des Chromatin-Netzes nicht mehr unterscheiden läßt. Die Dauer der Sichtbarkeit des Polarfeldes hängt vermutlich von Faktoren ab welche die totale Kernrekonstruktion verhindert oder verzögert haben. So einmal der Druck, der das Annähern der Ränder des Polarfeldes verzögern kann während er nur geringe Wirkung auf das Fortschreiten der inneren Gliederung der Chromatinstruktur hat. Es können so Bilder entstehen, beginnend von einem normal geformten Kern mit einem kleinen heißen Raum im Zentrum, der das Überbleibsel des Rastlochenfeldes anzeigt, bis zu einem ringförmigen Kern, der die ursprüngliche Form des telophasischen kompakten Sterns beibehalten hat.

3 Der Verlauf der polaren Orientierung der Chromosomen während der Mitose ist ein interessantes Problem, die gleichzeitige Entwicklung des achromatischen Apparates (Stirndelapparat). Mit dem Phasenkontrastmikroskop ist es möglich die achromatischen Strukturen zu beobachten und damit das Studium der Veränderungen der chromatischen Strukturen und die bezugliche Folgerungen. Das Erscheinen der polaren Orientierung in den späten Prophase ist offensichtlich verbunden mit dem vermutlichen Andauern der Bewegung mit der vorübergehenden Telophase durch die Bindung bis zur neuen Prophase, oder mit dem Beginn der Orientierung während der Prophase durch die Einstellung der Zentromeren. In beiden Fällen könnte die Erklärung zu klären sein als daß die Zentromeren der Chromosomen an der Höhe der primären Winkel liegen) verbunden mit der Anziehungszentrum verbunden bleiben. Andererseits ist es möglich, daß in unserem Fall, die Natur dieser Verbindungen genau zu klären, noch können wir das Anziehungszentrum mit Bezeichnungen belegen, die einem morphologischen Bild entsprechen (Centriolum Centrosom, usw.) Man kann jedoch vermuten daß die besondere Polarisierung der Chromosomen in der Prophase einer Orientierung um den sich bildenden Spindelapparat zugeschrieben werden kann und dies in Übereinstimmung mit einigen Autoren die die Möglichkeit hervorheben, daß die Bewegungen der Chromosomen schon vor der Auflösung der Kernmembran beginnen, weil die Chromosomen auch unter diesen Umständen unter der Kontrolle der Anziehungszentren stehen.

FALL UND HOMES (1) haben tatsächlich beobachtet, daß die Chromosomen im Innern des prophasischen Kerns sich an die Kernmembran in Zonen gliedern, welche sich in der Nähe der außerhalb der Membran stehenden Anziehungszentren befinden. SCHRAM (13) hat an Eiern von *Anniulus* während der ersten meiotischen Teilung beobachtet daß die Chromosomen im Kerninnern gleichmäßige Bewegungen zu denselben

der Anziehungszentren ausführen, und daß anschließend die Wanderung zu dem beiden Zellpolen erfolgt. Diese Untersuchungen zeigen, daß die Chromosomen die Auflösung der Kernmembran nicht abwarten müssen, um eine bestimmte Orientierung anzunehmen, und daß die Kernmembran selbst kein Hindernis für die Wirkung zwischen Anziehungszentren und Chromosomen darstellt.

Im Fall der von uns untersuchten Zellen ist es hingegen sehr wahrscheinlich, daß der Zentralapparat sich im Innern des interkinetischen und prophasischen Kerns befindet. Wenn im Erythroblast von Triton die endonukleäre Lage des Zentralapparats auch nicht direkt gezeigt werden kann, kann sie doch auf Grund indirekter Daten abgeleitet werden. In diesen Zellen wurde nämlich während der I-Perikinese und der Prophase das Vorkommen außerhalb der Kernmembran von einem oder allen konstitutiven Elementen des Zentralapparates nie beobachtet, im Gegensatz zu dem, was in anderen Zellen von Triton gesehen wurde (Granuloblast, Lymphoblast, Fibrozyt usw.) bei denen der Zentralapparat immer außerhalb der Kernmembran mit allen seinen konstitutiven Elementen (Centriolum, Centrosom, mitochondriale Strahlung (vgl. 12)) gesehen wurde. Ferner kann die endonukleäre Lage der Anziehungszentren im Tritonerthroblasten von den folgenden Daten im Vergleich mit anderen Zelltypen bei denen die Anziehungszentren außerhalb des Kerns liegen, abgeleitet werden:

a) I-Zellen mit extranukleärem Zentralapparat zeigen die Mitochondrien charakteristische strahlenförmige Hila- und Herbewegungen auf die centrosomale Zone gerichtet. Dagegen erscheinen die Mitochondrien in den hier untersuchten Erythroblasten ohne irgendwelche Ordnung im Zytoplasma verstreut und zeigen keine geordnete Bewegungen.

b) Der Kern der Erythroblasten stellt sich apikalisch dar, während die Zellen mit extranukleärem Zentralapparat meist eine kennzeichnende Einbuchtung des Kerns auf Höhe der centrosomalen Zone aufweisen (7).

c) Der prophasische Kern der Erythroblasten weist vollständige, rockartige Rotationsbewegungen um die eigene Achse auf, was in anderen Zelltypen, bei denen der Zentralapparat sicher extranukleär ist, nicht vorkommt; der Zentralapparat ist nämlich mit der Kernmembran verbunden und verhindert das Zustandekommen solcher Bewegungen (4-5).

Es ist also zu vermuten, daß in den von uns untersuchten Zellen der Zentralapparat sich in der Gegend des Rabl'schen Polfeldes organisiert, und anschließend die Verwandlung des lockeren Knäuels in einem metaphasischen Stern sowie die Teilungsachse der Zelle bestimmt.

Nachdem die polare Wanderung und die Trennung der Tochterzellen erfolgt sind, erhält jede dieser beiden die Hälfte des ursprünglichen Zentralapparats, der sich in der Mitte der ringförmigen von den Chromosomen gebildeten Masse befindet. Die beiden Anziehungszentren liegen innerhalb der entsprechenden achromatischen Felder und sind wahrscheinlich für das konzentrische Zusammenziehen der Chromosomenschleifen rund um das achromatische Feld verantwortlich. Das Andauern der strahlenförmigen Orientierung des Chromatingerüstes nach dem Stadium des kompakten Sterns (vgl. z. B. Abb. 3c, d, e) bestätigt die Annahme, daß die Verbindungen der Scheitel der Chromosomenschleifen mit dem

Anziehungszentrum immer noch erhalten sind und daß dieses im Polarfeld des sich rekonstruierenden Kerns liegt. Mit einer solchen Hypothese stimmen auch die morphologischen Befunde der Mitosen, die doppelkernige Elemente ergaben, überein.

Was die metaphasische Rekonstruktion von Abb. 8 angeht, bemerken wir, daß das Benzol eine Verletzung bewirkt hat, wodurch die polare Wanderung nicht erfolgen konnte. Jedoch erlaubt die Tatsache, daß die Kernrekonstruktion ohne eine Umorientierung der Chromosomen eintritt, den Schluß, daß die Verbindungen der Scheitel der Chromosomschleifen mit dem Anziehungszentrum auch in diesem Fall nicht unterbrochen werden.

Schlußfolgerung

Zusammenfassend zeigen die hier beschriebenen Untersuchungen, daß im lebenden Erythroblast von Triton (*Molge vulgaris* L.) die polare Orientierung des RABLschen Feldes in günstig orientierten Zellen schon im Stadium des lockeren Knäuels nachweisbar ist. Aus dem prophasischen Polarfeld entsteht anschließend das zentrale achromatische Feld des metaphasischen Sterns. Aus diesem leiten sich die zentralen achromatischen Felder der Tochtersterne ab, die sich in den hellen Spalten verwandeln, die während der Kernrekonstruktion sichtbar sind. Dieser Spalt verschwindet meistens wieder und bei fortgeschrittener Rekonstruktion ist er nicht mehr mit Sicherheit nachweisbar. Alle diese Übergänge und Veränderungen sind nur in gut orientierten Zellen sichtbar, nämlich wenn ihr polarer Teil gegen die Frontlinse des Objektiivs gerichtet ist. In anders orientierten Zellen entgehen uns viele dieser morphologischen Einzelheiten. Andererseits stellt die «im Profil» angelegte Untersuchung der Karvokinese eine nützliche Ergänzung der frontalen Beobachtung dar, besonders weil sie hilft, sich die Tridimensionalität der chromatischen Figur besser vorzustellen.

Was die mehr oder weniger gesicherte Identität der Überbleibsel der Polfelder, wie sie in den interkinetischen Kernen der Tochterzellen sichtbar sind, mit dem achromatischen Streifen von PALUMI (6) betrifft, können wir ohne weiteres diese Möglichkeit annehmen. Es bekräftigen diese Behauptung vor allem die morphologischen Analogien, welche zwischen den Überbleibseln der polaren Felder, die von uns in den Kernen der Tochterzellen beobachtet wurden, und den von PALUMI in Ruhekernen beschriebenen Struk-

turen bestehen. Die vorliegenden Untersuchungen verbürgen also die Annahme, daß das von PALUMI beschriebene «cariocentro» das interkinetische Äquivalent zum RAB'schen Polarfeld der telophasischen Figur darstellt.

Zusammenfassung

An Hand von mikrokineematographischen Untersuchungen an lebenden Erythroblasten von Triton mit dem Phasenkontrastmikroskop beschreiben die Verfasser die Entstehung des RAB'schen Polarfeldes während der Prophase, seine Umwandlungen während des ganzen Zellteilungsvorgangs und sein Schicksal in den Rebellernen der Tochterkerne. Es wird die Auffassung vertreten, daß die neulich von PALUMI in Rebellernen beschriebene Struktur (achromatisches Streifen, «cariocentro» mit großer Wahrscheinlichkeit das Überbleibsel des RAB'schen Polarfeldes der telophasischen Figur darstellt.

Summary

Cinemicrographic examination of living triton erythroblasts with the phase contrast microscope revealed the development of RAB polar field during the prophase its modifications throughout the whole mitotic process and its fate in the resting nuclei of the daughter cells. The view is put forward that the achromatic strip or «cariocentro» recently described by PALUMI in resting nuclei is in all probability the remnant of the RAB polar field of the telophasic element.

Résumé

Les auteurs décrivent à l'aide d'études microcinématographiques d'érythroblastes vivants du triton sous le microscope polarisant la formation du champ polaire de RAB pendant la prophase ses transformations pendant toute la division cellulaire et son destin dans les noyaux de repos des cellules-filles. Les auteurs sont d'avis que les structures des noyaux de repos, décrites dernièrement par PALUMI (bandelette achromatique, «cariocentro») représentent très probablement les restes du champ polaire de RAB de la télophase.

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The Treatment of Haemochromatosis with Desferrioxamine

(With Plate I)

By FRIEDRICH WÖHLER

Hitherto venesection has had to be regarded as the method of choice for treating haemochromatosis. Now however we have available another means of withdrawing iron from the human organism. The great advantage of this new method over venesection is that it can also be employed in cases of transfusion haemochromatosis, haemolytic anaemia, and achrestic anaemia, as well as in the many different forms of secondary siderosis.

The method consists of administering hydrous iron acid compound, known as desferrioxamine B hydrochloride. Attempts to remove iron from the organism with the aid of chelating agents were undertaken as far back as 1932 (3, 6, 7-6). The drugs

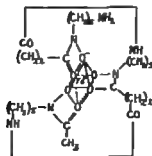
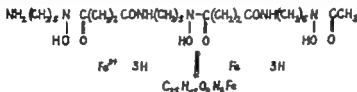


Fig. 1

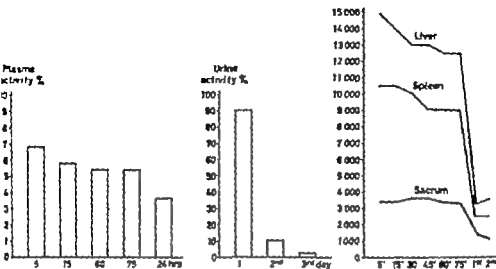


Fig. 2. Behaviour of radioactive ferrioxamine B in the organism (intravenous injection of 30 μ c. ferrioxamine labelled with ^{59}Fe).

used were diethylethyglycine ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid and BAL. Recently use has been made of diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA) (4, 5). We have also employed this substance but it was not successful in long-term therapy because of toxic side effects.

Desferrioxamine is a naturally occurring substance which is formed from *Actinomyces*. It belongs to the category of siderochromes which are able to form brownish red complexes with trivalent iron. The siderochromes can be divided into two main groups, the so-called sideromyces which are iron-containing antibiotics, and the sideramines, which possess growth-promoting properties and specifically antagonise the antibacterial effect of the sideromyces.

The desferrioxamine in which we are interested here is the iron-free parent substance of ferrioxamine a member of the sideramine group. Desferrioxamine is a filamentous trihydroxamic acid derivative which forms an octahedral complex with an Fe^{+++} ion. The long chain of desferrioxamine coils itself round the iron ion so that latter is thoroughly embedded (fig. 1). 100 mg. desferrioxamine B hydrochloride is capable, theoretically of binding 9.3 mg. Fe^{+++} ions. This complex composed of iron and hydroxamic acid has molecular weight of 615 and can therefore pass very easily through the kidney. The stability constant of the Fe^{+++} complex is $10^{24.2}$ and is thus somewhat higher than that of transferrin (10^{20} and 10^{20}) which possesses two binding centres. The stability constants for alkaline earths are lower than those for EDTA (for calcium 1.7×10^8 and for magnesium $2 \cdot 10^6$). This also explains why desferrioxamine does not exert any untoward effects on the serum electrolytes even when administered for periods of more than one year.

Investigations to date have shown that other heavy metal ions, particularly trace elements, are not affected by desferrioxamine. Consequently it appears definite that the drug displays a selective effect on the iron proteins in the organism.

Ferrioxamine was prepared in a pure condition, defined and synthesised in the Research Laboratories of CIBA, Basle (1 2, 10)

Distribution and Excretion of Ferrioxamine

Originally we attempted to use ferrioxamine in the treatment of iron-deficiency anaemias. Despite the administration of extremely large doses, however neither the haemoglobin nor the erythrocyte level rose, but we were struck by a short lived rise in the serum iron. To obtain information about the metabolism of iron in the body radioactive ferrioxamine was administered intravenously. As fig 2 shows, some 90% of the labelled ferrioxamine was already

Table I

Behaviour of radioactive ferrioxamine in the organs of the rat (mean values of groups of 5 animals each) in terms of the time elapsing after injection of 15 μ c. Fe^{59} (values expressed in % of the amount injected and calculated per g. of tissue).

Organ	after 5 min.	after 30 min.	after 24 hours
Liver	4.47	2.63	0.15
Spleen	2.82	1.56	1.30
Kidney	1.98	1.38	0.80
Heart	2.70	0.82	0.99
Lung	2.05	5.32	0.76
Bone marrow (thigh)	2.50	1.50	1.12
Thigh muscle	0.43	0.30	0.36
Thymus	2.49	2.10	2.00
Stomach	1.70	1.29	0.60
Duodenum	0.85	1.29	1.52
Small intestine	0.67	0.88	0.78
Large intestine	0.63	0.65	0.68
Alaest	1.50	1.40	1.88
Skin	0.22	0.90	0.15

excreted with the urine on the first day—a finding which, with slight deviations, was recorded time and again in repeated studies. By the third day only very small amounts of ferrioxamine could still be detected. In the serum, an activity of some 20% was found 5 minutes after the injection of ferrioxamine, but this activity rapidly declined thereafter amounting to only about 2% after 24 hours. After 72 hours no activity could be demonstrated any longer



Fig. 2. Behaviour of organ iron in the rabbit following administration of ferrum vitæ, as well as of ferrum vitæ and desferrioxamine B. 1 — Normal animals 2 — 20 mg ferrum vitæ i.v. 3 — 20 mg. ferrum vitæ and infusion of desferrioxamine.

venous injection of 20 mg. ferrum vitæ (ferric saccharate complex) the organ iron concentration rose. Subsequent infusion of 1 g desferrioxamine over a period of 4 hours led to an appreciable fall in the concentration of organ iron in the test animals as compared with the controls. The difference was least marked in the kidney because renal excretion was still not completed 12 hours after the infusion and a relatively large amount of iron was still present in the kidney (fig. 3)

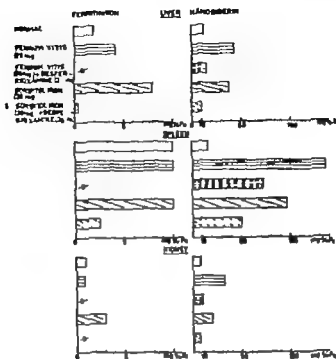


Fig 4 Ferritin and haemosiderin iron in various organs of the rabbit following the administration of ferrum vitis (20 mg. i. v.) sorbitol iron (20 mg. i. v.) and desferrioxamine (2 g i. m.).

Simultaneous determination of the ferritin iron and of the haemosiderin iron in these rabbit experiments revealed, as can be seen from fig 4 that in the organs the ferritin iron, which is apparently more readily available, is released almost completely to the desferrioxamine. Following the administration of ferric saccharate complexes (ferrum vitis) or sorbitol iron, the concentration of ferritin and haemosiderin iron in the liver spleen and kidney invariably rose. Even though, as exact quantitative determinations showed the mass of the mobilized iron came from the haemosiderin, the ferritin iron was none the less almost completely eliminated. It may thus be concluded that both fractions of depot iron release their iron to desferrioxamine in the cells. Since ferritin can release its entire content of iron the actual turnover of depot iron between ferritin and haemosiderin is probably also increased - that is to say the apoferritin that is produced will endeavour to take up the haemosiderin iron present, thus intensifying the breakdown of the

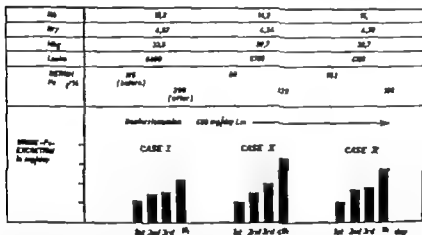
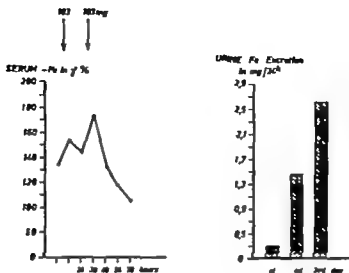


Fig 1. a) Serum iron level and urinary iron excretion following the administration of desferrioxamine in normal test subject. b) Urinary iron excretion following administration of desferrioxamine in 3 normal test subjects.

haemochromatosis. Determination of the serum iron in the rabbit before and after the administration of desferrioxamine in these experiments clearly showed that the serum iron level rose during the mobilization of the depot iron. This finding was considerably more marked in human beings.

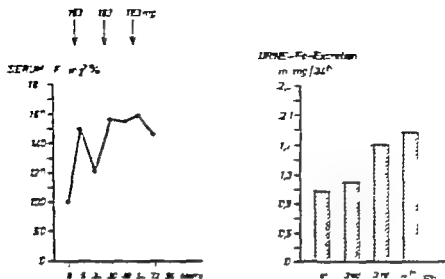


Fig C Serum iron level and urinary iron excretion following the administration of desferrioxamine to normal test subjects (300 mg. Fe^{59} daily by mouth).

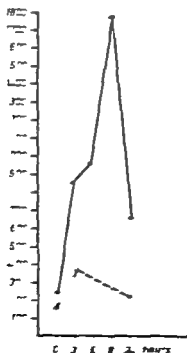


Fig D Serum iron levels following intravenous injection of 720 mg. desferrioxamine and 24-hour dialysis.

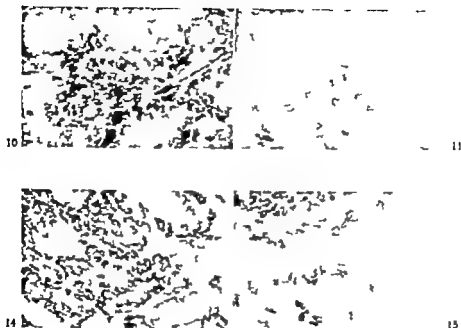


Fig 10 Liver biopsy prior to desferrioxamine therapy (Pat. Sd., hereditary haemochromatosis).

Fig 11 Liver biopsy following the removal of 18 g iron in pat. Sd.

Fig 14 Liver biopsy prior to desferrioxamine therapy in pat. F (thalassaemia).

Fig 15 Liver biopsy following the removal of 14 g. iron in pat. F. Haemoderin iron has largely disappeared from parenchymal and connective tissue.

Staining for iron with Turnbull blue reaction, counterstaining with haematoxylin-eosin.

When the iron-free hydroxamic acid compound, desferrioxamine B, was administered to normal test subjects, the serum iron level regularly increased in accordance with the amount injected and more iron was subsequently excreted with the urine (figs. 5a and 5b). If iron was given orally at the same time, iron excretion did not show any substantial increase, although the serum iron levels were a little higher (fig. 6).

In response to desferrioxamine the urine turns salmon-pink in colour, the extent of the discoloration depending on the amount of iron that has been dissolved out. This salmon pink colouring is due to dissolved ferrioxamine. Paper-chromatographic studies of urine and bile showed that the desferrioxamine-iron complex could only be demonstrated in urine. Hence, none is excreted via the bile. The unidimensional chromatograms reveal that, as was to be expected, the desferrioxamine iron complex possesses the same characteristic properties as ferrioxamine.

That desferrioxamine charged with iron and circulating in the blood is in fact responsible for the rise in serum iron usually observed following administration of the substance is evidenced by the ease with which the hydroxamic acid and iron complex can be removed from the serum by dialysis: the values for actual transferrin iron are then considerably lower (fig. 7).

It seems particularly interesting to note that where the serum iron levels are very high, transferrin can take up iron ions from ferrioxamine until it (i. e. transferrin) is completely saturated—a finding which was confirmed by appropriate *in vitro* dialysis tests with pure ferrioxamine and iron-free transferrin. This result should not be considered surprising because the stability constants for desferrioxamine and transferrin differ only slightly. However it would appear that iron ions can only be transferred from ferrioxamine to transferrin if the desferrioxamine is saturated to the maximum of its binding capacity. On the other hand, this process easily explains why we have never observed any case of anaemia occurring in the course of desferrioxamine treatment. Apparently therefore, despite the mobilisation of iron there is still sufficient iron available for erythropoiesis.

From which iron-containing proteins does desferrioxamine take up iron? An exact answer to this question was obtained in dialysis tests. If pure, iron-free transferrin is introduced into a dialysis tube and ferrous sulphate into the external fluid, the ferrous sulphate

Table II

Dialysis tests with transferrin, ferritin, and haemosiderin following the addition of desferrioxamine

Substance	Concentration inside before dialysis	Concentration inside after dialysis	Iron taken up by desferrioxamine
Transferrin (human) + 20 mg. desferrioxamine	225 mg. = 780.5 mg. F	34 mg. F (225 mg.)	246.5 mg. F
Ferritin (human) + 20 mg. desferrioxamine	20 mg. = 4.8 mg. Fe	3.63 mg. Fe	1 170 mg. F
Haemosiderin (human) + 20 mg. desferrioxamine	20 mg. = 7.1 mg. Fe	5.358 mg. Fe	1 742 mg. Fe
Ferritin (horse) + 20 mg. desferrioxamine	20 mg. = 4.2 mg. F	2.77 mg. F	1 43 mg. Fe

Table III

Organ iron content of normal spleen and of spleen rich in iron following incubation (12 hours at 37 °C.) with desferrioxamine (rabbit experiment).

	Normal spleen	Dissolved out % above in mg. %	Iron-rich spleen	Dissolved out
Total organ iron	32.125		296.5	
Following addition of des- ferrioxamine (20 mg./200 mg. tissue)	16.323	35.8	74.5	222.0
Following addition of iron- free water	31.125	21.0	243.5	51.0
Ferritin iron, haemoglobin iron				

will diffuse through the membrane and saturate the transferrin. If desferrioxamine is now added and after an incubation period of about 6 hours at room temperature, dialysis is performed against flowing distilled water the quantity of iron which is dissolved out practically attains the theoretical binding capacity of desferrioxamine. Similar results were obtained with human haemosiderin and ferritin (human being and horse). This means that desferrioxamine is capable of separating and absorbing iron from all iron-bearing proteins in the organism (table II). Similarly the ability of desferrioxamine to dissolve out iron can also be demonstrated in normal organs and in organs rich in iron (table III).

Therapeutic Effects of Desferrioxamine

About two years ago we began to introduce desferrioxamine into therapy. We would like now to give a survey of 25 treated cases,

included 13 of primary haemochromatosis, in 11 of which definite evidence of heredity was found. Our material also comprises 2 cases of thalassaemia, 1 of pulmonary haemosiderosis, 3 of cirrhosis, 1 of BLACKFAN-DIAMOND anaemia in a 4-year-old boy and 5 of achrestic anaemia with extremely severe siderosis. The results of the treatment can be seen to some extent from the iron excretion tables.

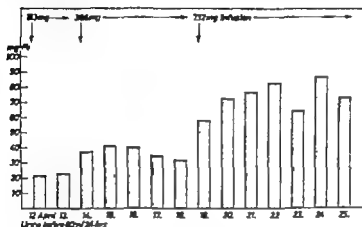


Fig 8. Daily iron excretion following the administration of desferrioxamine (haemochromatosis).

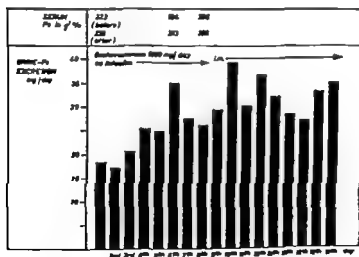


Fig 9. Urinary iron excretion following the administration of desferrioxamine (haemochromatosis).

In one case (Pat. 5) iron excretion rose after a certain initial period to 80 mg. daily in the course of the first few months, but then diminished, as figs. 8 and 9 show to levels of about 50 mg. daily. In this patient approximately 18 g. iron has so far been eliminated in the space of one year.

The same level of iron excretion was attained in a second case of hereditary haemochromatosis over a period of 14 months. Fig. 10 shows the extremely severe degree of siderosis in liver biopsy material prior to the commencement of treatment. Now, as fig. 11 so impressively reveals, a quite considerable decrease in histochemically demonstrable liver iron has occurred. The iron had largely disappeared from the cells of both parenchymal and connective tissue. Similar startling improvements were achieved in other patients as well.

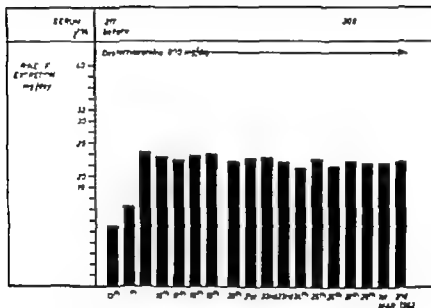


Fig. 1. Urinary iron excretion following the administration of desferrioxamine in a case of haemochromatosis.

An impressive clinical feature of the treatment was that the patients often began to lose their *bronzed colour* after only 2-3 weeks. Examination of excised portions of skin in these cases tended to show a reduction in the melanin content of the basal layer rather than a definite decrease in iron. In this connection, it must be borne in mind that desferrioxamine may display a catalytic effect here since adrenaline may fail to be oxidised via adrenochrome to melanin in the presence of Fe^{+3} ions. Furthermore the rapid subjective

Grateful acknowledgements are made here to Prof. CREUTZFELD who performed the liver biopsy and to Doz. Dr. E. G. TREMMER, Chief Physician, who carried out the histochemical examination at the Institut of Pathology, University of Freiburg (Director Prof. F. BECKER).

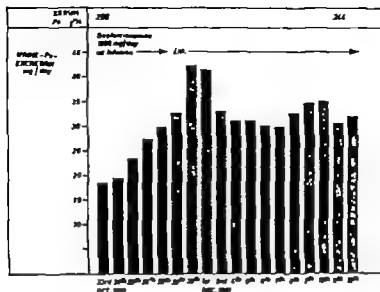


Fig. 12. Urinary iron excretion following the administration of desferrioxamine, in case of the haemochromatosis.

improvement of the patients was most striking although in many cases (cf. table IV) the laboratory findings did not improve until some considerable time had elapsed. The very rapid subjective improvement cannot, in our opinion, be accounted for solely by the incipient excretion of iron: the fact that desferrioxamine is a substance possessing oxidative properties suggests that it exerts a beneficial effect on oxidative metabolic processes.

A finding of some note in those haemochromatosis patients who had concomitant diabetes was that the insulin dose could be reduced within only a few days after the commencement of desferrioxamine treatment. Since, however zinc is not bound by desferrioxamine—thus excluding the possibility of the insoluble zinc-hormone insulin complex being split up—it appears conceivable that this definite reduction in the insulin requirement may be due to activation of glucose breakdown resulting from increased oxidative degradation, or possibly oxidative phosphorylation.

It was surprising to note that in some patients iron excretion showed, day after day almost the same levels as those recorded in patient S (fig. 12)

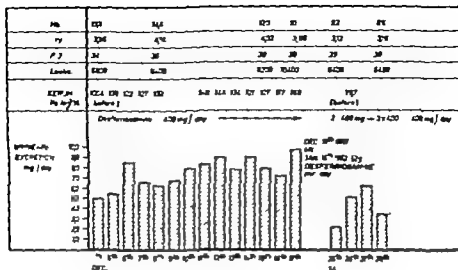


Fig. 20 Blood picture and urinary iron excretion during desferrioxamine treatment in case of pulmonary haemoderiosis.

Similarly we have observed lower iron excretion levels in cases of liver cirrhosis with siderosis of the organ. In these cases it is impossible to determine the extent to which the low iron excretion levels are due to the severe cirrhotic changes and the impaired blood flow or to the type of haemoderin deposited (fig. 18).

Of particular importance would seem to be the fact that in cases of achrestic anaemia desferrioxamine is also able to exert an effect on the *synthesis of haem*. As fig. 19 impressively reveals, the pathological increase in δ -aminolaevulinic acid in urine, as well as of coproporphyrin and protoporphyrin in erythrocytes, returns practically to normal. At the same time this patient showed a rise in the haemoglobin level and erythrocyte count, reflecting an improvement in the synthesis of haem.* This process exactly paralleled the excretion of iron promoted by desferrioxamine. The account for this surprising finding, we should like to assume that the iron ions released and eliminated include some which, in the form of S-Fe-S bridges block the active SH groups of the enzymes involved in the synthesis of haem. Consequently increased enzymatic activity would be available to improve the synthesis of haem. In the case of our patient, the practical result of this process is, firstly, that no more

transfusions are required, and secondly that the severe generalised siderosis is regressing satisfactorily. As may easily be imagined, the patient's general condition has shown an extraordinary improvement, he used to be unfit for work, but is now able to take up a full time occupation again.

Finally I should like to mention the iron excretion levels obtained in case of essential pulmonary haemorrhoids, in which up to 10 mg iron was eliminated daily. Owing to pulmonary haemorrhages, however, the treatment had to be discontinued in order to prevent an additional drain on the body's iron depot with resultant iron deficiency (fig 20).

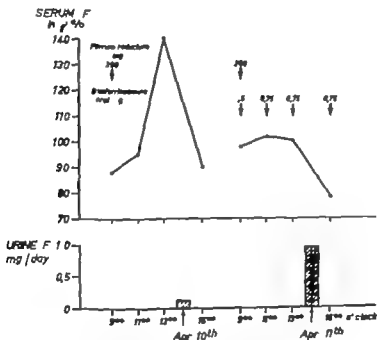


Fig 21 Serum iron levels and urinary iron excretion in response to oral administration of reduced iron with and without desferrioxamine.

Desferrioxamine medication, like venesection, still possesses one unsatisfactory feature namely that increased quantities of dietary iron are constantly absorbed during the treatment. The increase in iron absorption from the gastro-intestinal tract observed during treatment with desferrioxamine is due to the fact that increased amounts of iron are being dissolved out of the organism. Even

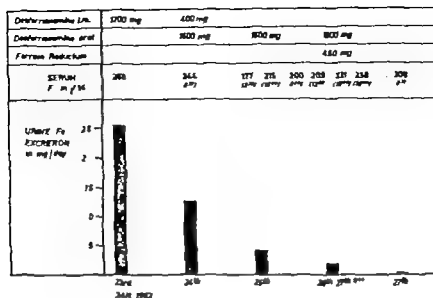


Fig 22. Absorption of reduced iron from the gastro-intestinal tract prevented by desferrioxamine in case of thalassemia.

though this increased amount of absorbed iron were to be bound and excreted by the desferrioxamine circulating in the body an attempt should obviously be made to block iron absorption from the gastro-intestinal tract.

We therefore carried out tests with desferrioxamine II with the aim of preventing absorption of dietary iron by binding the latter in the gastro-intestinal tract. A radioactive desferrioxamine and Fe^{+++} complex was fed to rabbits by stomach tube, and it was found that this complex was not absorbed. No specific activity could be demonstrated in the serum of the experimental animals after either 4 or 12 hours.

To find out whether the absorption of iron can be blocked in the gastro-intestinal tract in human beings, we administered reduced iron to normal test subjects. The serum iron level and urinary iron excretion were measured before and after administration of the reduced iron with and without desferrioxamine, as the following figures show. Whenever reduced iron was given alone the serum iron rose as expected, whereas when desferrioxamine was given simultaneously this rise did not occur (fig 21)

Table IV

Laboratory findings in patients St. and Sch. following 10 weeks treatment with desferrioxamine in daily dose of 800 mg.

	Pat. St.		Pat. Sch.	
	Iron excretion 6.8 g.		Iron excretion 7 g.	
	7.4.61	29.6.61	18.4.61	29.6.61
Takata	60	90	70	70
Weltmann	7½	7½	8	II
Thymol	(+)	negative	+++	negative
Total bilirubin, mg. %	2.66	1.12	1.86	0.9
Prothrombin, %	56	66	64	68
Serum iron, mcg. %	253	164	252	131
Total protein, g. %	8.5	7.6	8.0	7.9
Albumin, %	45	35	45	III
Total globulin, %	35	45	35	47
α_1 -globulin, %	4	4	6	5
α_2 -globulin, %	9	7	9	9
β -globulin, %	10	9	17	10
γ -globulin, %	32	25	23	23
Insulin requirement	0	0	60 U	40 U

As when desferrioxamine was administered alone, a slight excretion of iron in the urine was observed but did not exceed 1 mg despite the massive doses of reduced iron. These tests permit the conclusion that the iron was bound in the gastro-intestinal tract and could no longer be absorbed. However a small amount of the desferrioxamine—the exact quantity cannot be determined with certainty—was doubtless absorbed and led to the increase in iron excretion as well as to the decrease in transferrin iron. Similar results were obtained in our female patient with thalassaemia who was given as much as 450 mg reduced iron by mouth (fig 22). It is certain that iron absorption was not increased. In two patients with haemochromatosis the results of administering desferrioxamine by mouth are not so easy to define (fig 23). In one case (patient Sch.) a considerable rise in serum iron was noted. Urinary iron excretion was relatively high in both cases. Perhaps it may be assumed that the amount of desferrioxamine absorbed in these cases was greater than in the other test subjects. Further absorption tests in haemochromatosis patients (figs. 24 and 25) clearly indicated, however that no iron was in fact absorbed by the gastrointestinal tract during desferrioxamine medication, while in controls an increase of the serum iron levels was observed.

This is evidenced in particular by the fact that following the administration of radioactive iron serum radioactivity was almost

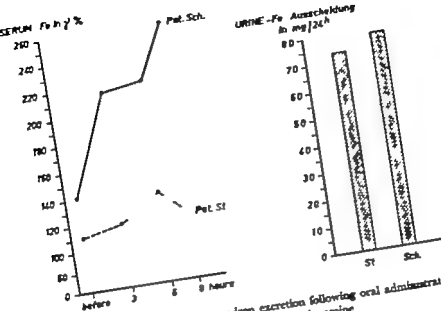


Fig 23. Serum iron levels and urinary iron excretion following oral administration of 3 capsules (= 750 mg) desferrioxamine

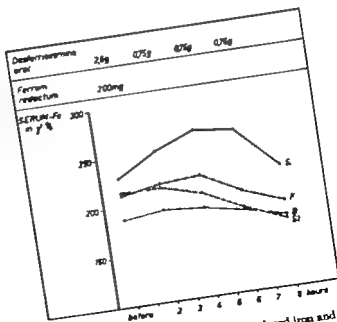


Fig 24. Serum iron levels following administration of reduced iron and desferrioxamine in haemochromatosis patients.

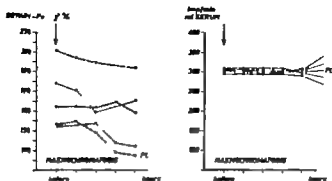


Fig. 25. Serum iron levels and radioactivity in the serum following oral administration of 20 mg. Fe^{++} ions (20 μc , Fe^{59}) and of desferrioxamine (2 g.) in cases of haemochromatosis.

always nil and no increase could be noted. Somewhat similar findings are recorded when absorption tests are carried out by administering reduced iron or ferrous sulphate in the form of biscuits containing 200 mg. iron ions.

To sum up the combined parenteral and oral administration of desferrioxamine makes it possible both to remove iron from the human organism and to prevent iron being absorbed. This appears to be an ideal combination for the future treatment of haemochromatosis.

Summary

A new method of treating iron storage diseases is reported. The method is based on the principle that iron ions in the organism can be specifically bound by desferrioxamine, a hydroxamine acid compound, and then, owing to the low molecular weight of the resultant complex, excreted via the kidney. Other trace elements are not affected by desferrioxamine. Experimental data are given on iron excretion in animals, as well as on the extent to which desferrioxamine dissolves out iron from transferrin, ferritin, and haemosiderin. In human beings, iron excretion levels of up to 80 mg. daily have been recorded, with an average of about 30 mg. daily. The patients treated comprised cases of primary and secondary haemochromatosis, achrostatic anaemia, liver cirrhosis, BLACKFAN-DIAMOND anaemia, and pulmonary haemosiderosis. Since desferrioxamine also inhibits enteral absorption of iron, the ideal treatment would seem to consist in administering the drug both intramuscularly (500 mg. 2 times daily) and orally in the form of capsules to be taken with meals (250 mg. 3 times daily).

Résumé

Description d'une nouvelle méthode de traitement des thésauroses du fer. La méthode se base sur le principe que les ions du fer sont spécifiquement fixés dans le corps par la desferrioxamine, un composé de l'acide hydroxamique, et que le complexe for-

mé, à cause de son poids moléculaire peu élevé, est éliminé par les reins. Les autres oligo-éléments ne sont pas influencés par la desferrioxamine. L'auteur rapporte des résultats des expériences sur l'excrétion de fer par des animaux dont découle, que la desferrioxamine dissout le fer dans la transferrine, la ferritine et l'hémoglobine. Chez l'homme, une excrétion journalière jusqu'à 80 mg peut être observée, la moyenne journalière est de 30 mg. Les malades traités souffraient d'hémochromatose primaire ou secondaire, d'anémie achrestique, de cirrhose hépatique, d'anémie du type BLACKFAN-DIAMOND et d'hémosidrose pulmonaire. Parce que la desferrioxamine entrave l'absorption intestinale du fer le traitement idéal semble être l'administration intramusculaire (400 mg 3 fois par jour) et orale sous forme de capsules pendant les repas (150 mg 3 fois par jour).

Zusammenfassung

Es wird über eine neue Methode zur Behandlung der Eisenspeicherkrankheit berichtet, die darauf beruht, daß durch Desferrioxamin, eine Trihydroxamsäureverbindung, Eisenionen im Organismus spezifisch gebunden werden können und infolge des kleinen Moleküls durch die Niere entfernt werden. Andere Spurenelemente werden nicht erfaßt. Experimentelle Ergebnisse über die Eisenausscheidung beim Tier, die Herstellung von Eisenionen aus Transferrin, Ferritin und Hämoglobin werden mitgeteilt. Die Ergebnisse beim Menschen zeigen Eisenausscheidungen bis zu 80 mg maximal, im Durchschnitt etwa 30 mg täglich. Behandelt wurden primäre und sekundäre Hämochromatosen, siderochrestische Anämien, Leberzirrhosen, eine Blackfan-Diamond-Anämie sowie eine Lungenhämosidrose. Da das Desferrioxamin auch die enterale Eisenaufnahme hemmt, erscheint als ideale Therapie einmal die intramuskuläre Verabreichung (zweimal 500 mg pro die i. m.) und die orale (dreimal 250 mg pro die) als Kapsel zu den Mahlzeiten.

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Congenital Non Spherocytic Haemolytic Anaemia Due to Pyruvate-kinase Deficiency

By PAOLO BRUNETTI, ADOLFO PUXEDDU GIUSEPPE NENCI
AND ERMANNO MIGLIORINI

Congenital non spherocytic haemolytic anaemias represent a heterogeneous group of diseases with certain common fundamental features, such as lack of spherocytosis, normal haemoglobin normal osmotic fragility little if any benefit by splenectomy and apparent unsteadiness of family distribution. Remarkable progress was made in the last decade in the study of etiology of this haemolytic diseases through metabolic and enzymatic investigations. Since 1953 Dacie et al. (6) emphasized the presence of increased autohaemolysis in vitro and of some anomalies of erythrocyte morphology. In 1954 SELWYN AND DACIE (33) distinguished two types of congenital non spherocytic haemolytic anaemias (type I and type II) upon the basis of the different behaviour of erythrocytes during incubation in vitro. In type I autohaemolysis and loss of potassium were normal or only slightly increased and the corrective action of glucose was evident but usually less than in normal erythrocytes. Type II erythrocytes were instead characterized by a markedly increased autohaemolysis and by a heavy potassium depletion after incubation. On the other hand addition of glucose did not correct any of these alterations.

This research was supported by contribution of the Italian National Council of Research.

The following abbreviations have been used in the text: ADP = adenosin-diphosphate; AMP = adenosin-monophosphate; ATP = adenosin-triphosphate; 2,3-DPG = 2,3-diphosphoglycerate; DPN = diphosphopyridinnucleotide; F-6-Pk = fructose-6-P kinase; GAPD = glyceraldehyde-3-P-dehydrogenase; CPD = glycerophosphate-dehydrogenase; G-6-PD = glucose-6-P-dehydrogenase; GSII = reduced glutathion; GSSG = oxidized glutathion; LD = lactic-dehydrogenase; MD = malic-dehydrogenase; 6-P-GD = 6-phosphogluconate-dehydrogenase; PGK = phosphoglycerate-kinase; PK = pyruvate-kinase; TPN = triphosphopyridinnucleotide.

Some observations revealed a defective glucose metabolism in type II erythrocytes. SELWYN AND DACE (33) found an abnormally low utilization of glucose, and DE GRUCHY et al. (8-9) demonstrated a decrease of the ATP content. It was subsequently found that spontaneous autohaemolysis *in vitro* in type II cases, not correctible by glucose, could be normalized by addition of ATP to incubated blood (9). In patients with congenital non spherocytic haemolytic anaemia a defective incorporation of P^{32} into ATP has been demonstrated by PRANKERD (26). This was confirmed by ROBINSON et al. (31) who observed an accumulation of 2,3-DPG in type II erythrocytes and assumed an enzymatic block within the glycolytic chain following 2,3-DPG synthesis.

In patients affected by this haemolytic anaemia, VALENTINE et al. (36) found for the first time a lack of pyruvate kinase (PK) in erythrocytes and showed the hereditary character of this deficiency (34). BRUNETTI et al. (3) revealed the results of an enzymatic and genetic study performed on one of their patients with congenital non spherocytic haemolytic anaemia due to PK deficiency. Similar observations were subsequently reported by PRANKERD (28) and by LÖHR AND WALLER (22).

The present paper reports the results of a study performed on two patients with congenital non spherocytic haemolytic anaemia. In both a hereditary erythrocyte PK deficiency was demonstrated.

Materials and Methods

Routine haematologic studies were performed by standard methods. Autohaemolysis was studied according to SELWYN AND DACE (33) with the detailed procedure reported by BRUNETTI et al. (3). The various enzymatic activities, PK included, were determined in the haemolysate according to the methods described by BRUNETTI et al. (3). The method of BÖCKER AND PLEHNKE (4) for PK assay was modified by the addition of GSH, by which higher and more easily reproducible values are generally obtained. GSH, total pentoses and aldopentoses were determined according to the methods of GRUBERT AND PHILLIPS (12), MAGRAUM (23) and DACE AND BONDORANTZ (10) respectively. Determination of stalic acid (*N*-acetyl-neuraminic acid) was based on the method of HEN et al. (14) as described by BRUNETTI AND PIZZINO (3). Serum preparations were performed according to the method of TACHIKOFF et al. (35) for stalic acid determinations and of DAWSON et al. (7) for activation experiments.

Clinical History

Case 1. G. Fernando, 43 years old man, presented the first episode of jaundice during his first year of life: an icteric colouring in sclerae had always been evident, though subject to mild variations in intensity. At 22, while performing his military service, splenomegaly was diagnosed for the first time. Ever since his 35th year of age

Table I
Haematological data in patients with pyruvate kinase (PK) deficiency

	Erythrocytes (range) mill./mm ³	Haemoglobin (range) g./100 ml.	MCV μ^3	MCHC %
<i>Case 1</i>				
Before splenectomy	2.60-3.47	6.00-11.04	134	24
After splenectomy	3.00-3.41	10.00-11.10	135	28
<i>Case 2</i>	2.61-3.79	11.14-12.16	110	33

he had shown progressive asthenia and fatigue. These symptoms accentuated in the first months of 1962 and at the same time, such an increase in the icterus was observed to lead him to his first admission into hospital, where haemolytic anaemia with splenomegaly was diagnosed (spleen palpable 4 cm. below the left costal margin). RBC ranged between 3 and 3.5 millions and serum bilirubin was not higher than 4 mg.%. On that occasion, splenectomy was suggested to the patient. He was brought to our attention during hospitalization in the surgery department. During and after surgery one liter of blood was transfused. Morphological and enzymatic studies were performed both before and after operation. The spleen weighed 550 g. after squeezing of the blood. Splenectomy did not yield essential improvement in the patient's state. Haemolysis was just about unchanged as shown by the persistently low values of the erythrocyte counts, high reticulocytosis and by the oscillations of bilirubinaemia. The most significant haematologic data obtained during hospitalization are shown in table I. Neither the patient's parents nor his relatives, including his children, ever presented icteric episodes relating to haemolytic anaemia.

Case 2. L. G. Maria, a 16-year-old girl, was admitted to our Clinic on 15th November 1962. According to her parents, mild pallor of the skin and mucous membranes had always been evident. Icterus was first found in August 1962. Relevant asthenia and fatigue were noted contemporaneously. Urine got darker while her skin pallor accentuated. A mild splenomegaly (inferior pole palpable slightly below the thoracic arch) and moderate liver enlargement were present. Remarkable oscillations in icterus intensity were noted, ever since it was first revealed. Blood transfusions up to 1 litre were performed during hospitalization. The most significant haematologic data obtained at the time of hospitalization are summarized in table I. No other member of the family (including her parents and 2 year-old sister) had ever presented episodes of icterus.

Table II

Autohaemolysis studies in patients suffering from pyruvate-kinase (PK) deficiency haemolytic anaemia. Results are expressed in % haemolysis after 48 hours incubation at 37 °C.

Added compound	None	Glucose	ATP	ADP	ADP	Adenosine
<i>Case 1</i>	23.00	11.00	1.00	2.82	2.25	1.30
<i>Case 2</i>	5.80	4.30	1.80	2.20		4.50
Normal average	3.54	0.56	0.49	0.38	0.28	0.33

Table I (continued)

MCH	MCD	Reticulo- cytes (range) %	Bilirubin (range) mg. %	Osmotic fragility % NaCl before incubation	after incubation
AGE	μ				
30	7.78	3-6	1.30-3.00	0.30-0.44	0.24-0.58
33	7.78	6-10	0.60-2.70		
37	7.51	4-8	3.70-4.75	0.32-0.44	0.26-0.64

Results

A summary of the most significant haematologic data is shown in table I. Both patients revealed mild to moderate normochromic anaemia with moderate hyperbilirubinaemia and reticulocytosis. In both cases irregularly edged erythrocytes were found some of which were hyperpigmented and irregularly contracted while others were of a triangular shape, together with a prevalent macrocytosis and moderate polychromasia. In case 1 there were no significant changes after splenectomy except for an increase of the leptocytosis, present before the operation and a remarkable number of siderocytes (81/%) In case 2 a small number of elliptocytes was also observed. In both cases, the osmotic fragility of fresh blood was normal. After incubation at 37 C. for 24 hours it was slightly decreased.

Table III

Pyruvate-kinase (PK) activity of erythrocytes from patients with congenital non spherocytic haemolytic anaemia (homozygotes) from their relatives believed to be heterozygotes and from normal persons. PK values are expressed in units defined as μ moles of phosphoenolpyruvate used in one minute by 10^{14} RBC.

	Number studied	Mean and S.D.	Range
Patients			
Case 1		4.17	
Case 2		4.36	
Heterozygotes	23	10.4 ± 2.87	6.8-13.6
Normals	70	19.61 ± 4.19	13.4-31.5

The results of autohaemolysis studies are shown in table II. An increase of autohaemolysis in respect to normal was observed in both cases after 48 hours. It was only partially corrected by glucose

Table IV

ATP, ADP and AMP content of erythrocytes from patients with pyruvate-kinase (PK) deficiency subjects believed to be heterozygotes and normal persons. Values are expressed in μ Moles per 100 ml. RBC.

	Number studied	ATP	ADP	AMP
Patients				
Case 1		80.9	70.5	17.7
Case 2		94.0	42.7	25.2
Heterozygotes (Kindred 2)				
Mean and S. D.	7	126 ± 11.83	17.4	14.5
Range		113-146	7.3-34.5	12.0-17.2
Normals				
Mean and S.D.	10	146.5 ± 3.71	41.4	19.2
Range		134-168	37.9-68.2	7.4-28.1

but was brought back to normal by ATP. To be noted are the positive results obtained in both cases with ADP and AMP and in case 1 only the efficacy of adenosine.

PK determinations were performed on 70 normal individuals (males and females) ranging in age from 15 to 70 years. Mean values, extremes of variations and standard deviation are shown in table III. It is evident that both patients had a very low PK content in erythrocytes. Preliminary experiments do not provide evidence for the presence of an inhibitor or the lack of an activator in the pathologic haemolyzate. Mixture of normal haemolyzates with the haemolyzates of patients with PK deficiency yielded a PK activity equal to the sum of the activities of the separate specimens. The same results were obtained both before and after incubation of the mixture at 37 C. for periods ranging from 15 to 60 minutes. Similarly crystalline PK activity was not modified by incubation with pathologic haemolyzate. Finally stromata obtained from normal individuals did not prove to be activators of the pathologic haemolyzate.

Together with the marked decrease of PK activity a decrease of the erythrocyte ATP content up to 40% of the normal mean was also noticed. No changes in the erythrocyte content of ADP and AMP were observed (table IV).

All the other enzymes of oxidative and anaerobic glycolysis, besides PK, did not differ significantly from the average mean

Table V

Summary of the activities of glycolytic enzymes investigated in the erythrocytes of patients with congenital non-spherocytic haemolytic anaemia. Enzyme values are expressed in units defined as μ moles of substrate used in one minute by 10^{11} RBC.

Enzymes	Case 1	Case 2	Normal	
			Mean	Range
PK	4.1	4.9	19.61	13.4-31.5
G-6-PD	12.9	14.9	19.30	13.6-26.7
6-P-GD	3.1	—	3.26	4.7-6.0
F-6-PK	13.4	20.2	20.1	16.9-27.8
Aldolase	6.5	6.1	5.9	4.9-6.5
GAPD	189.0	188.0	264.0	191.0-370.0
PGK	480.0	403.0	590.0	505.0-835.0
GPD	1.3	0	0	
Enolase	33.4	15.2	31.7	25.8-39.5
LD	261.0	328.0	251.0	210.0-274.0
MD	214.0	246.0	232.0	220.0-252.0

Table VI

Total pentoses, aldopentoses and sialic acid (N-acetyl-neuraminic acid) content of erythrocytes from patients with pyruvate-kinase (PK) deficiency. Pentoses are expressed in μ g. per ml. RBC and sialic acid in μ g. per mg. of stromata.

Subjects	Total pentoses	Aldopentoses	Sialic acid
Case 1	136.0	91.0	9.44
Case 2	220.0	157.6	11.41
Normal mean	344.3	221.7	11.42
Range	248-431	193-283	10.84-13.26

(table V) The erythrocyte GSH and its stability after incubation with acetylphenylhydrazine were normal.

A marked reduction of the total pentoses and aldopentoses content of PK-deficient erythrocytes was also observed of the same order as the ATP diminution (table VI). A slight decrease of sialic acid in stromata was shown in case 1 only (table VI).

Studies performed on our two patients' blood-relatives demonstrated that the PK defect has a family and hereditary character. PK activity was determined in 42 members of the two family groups. The individuals observed can be divided into two groups according to whether PK values can be placed above the normal area (18.4 u., on an average) or whether they are below it (10.4 u., on an average) (tables III-VII). Separation between the two groups on the basis of

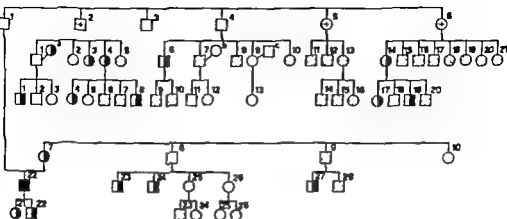
Table VII

Erythrocytic PK activity in the relatives of patients. Subjects are grouped in two classes with normal and intermediate Ph. values. Symbols refer to the pedigree (Fig. 1). PK values are expressed as μ moles of phosphoenolpyruvate used in one minute by 10^{11} RBC.

Family of Case 1			
Normal subjects	Ph. values	Heterozygotes	PK values
II 6	17.5	I 7	13.2
II 1	20.0	II 1	12.7
II 1	20.3	II 3	11.2
II 2	20.4	II 3	11.2
II 9	16.5	II 6	10.8
II 26	16.4	II 14	12.0
III 2	22.0	II 23	10.30
III 3	21.2	II 24	12.4
III 5	19.2	II 27	9.0
III 11	20.8	III 1	13.6
III 12	20.5	III 4	10.8
III 13	21.2	III 8	8.8
III 18	16.2	III 17	10.6
III 25	16.1	III 19	12.4
		III 21	9.9
		III 22	6.0
Family of Case 2			
II 4	15.8	II 1	12.1
III 3	15.6	II 2	12.4
III 4	15.2	II 5	11.2
		II 6	9.3
		II 7	7.9
		II 8	6.9
		II 9	10.9
		III 10	9.2
		III 14	13.3
Mean	18.4		10.8
Normal mean and range 19.6 (13.4-31.5)			

Ph. activity is not clear since there exists an overlapping zone between 13 and 14 units. Subjects with intermediate Ph. activity must be considered as probably being heterozygous for the pathologic gene whereas to patients with haemolytic anaemia and marked lack of Ph. a condition of homozygosity for the same can be ascribed. Evidence of hereditary transmission of a semi-dominant autosomic type was represented by the demonstration of an inter

KINDRED 1



KINDRED 2

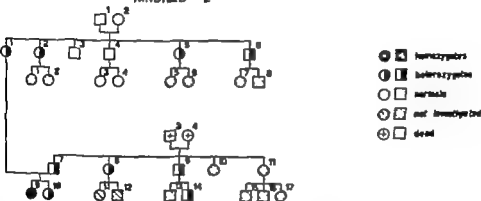


Fig. 1. Family trees of the two patients affected by PK-deficiency haemolytic anaemia. Males are represented with squares and females with circles.

mediate PK deficiency in the mother and in both the children of case 1 and in both the parents of case 2 (fig. 1)

It is to be noted that none of the individuals with intermediate PK values revealed, at the time of examination or in the past, any clinical evidence of anaemia or of hyperhaemolysis. Nevertheless, ATP content in 7 heterozygous subjects, family members of case 2, was $126 \mu\text{M}$ per 100 ml. of packed RBC, that is below the normal mean of $146.5 \mu\text{M}$. The difference between the two values appears significant with $2p$ between 0.001 and 0.005. If these findings should

be confirmed a three-group-classification would be made. The first would comprise homozygotes for the pathologic gene with low if any PK activity and remarkable ATP decrease the second consist of heterozygotes with intermediate PK and ATP values and the third with normal values. In intermediates no change in the other glycolytic erythrocyte enzymes was observed.

Discussion

Until now more than 80 cases of congenital non spherocytic haemolytic anaemia have been described. On the basis of autohaemolysis tests only a minority of these can be considered as belonging to type II. In a review of the literature until 1962 BRUNETTI et al. (3) listed 17 of these cases (including case I of the present report) in which the diagnosis was made with a sufficient degree of certainty (6, 9, 15, 34, 20, 25) and others in which the connection with type II could be considered probable but not proved (1, 24, 32, 13). Among these cases of congenital non spherocytic haemolytic anaemia of type II a lack of PK was observed in 7 patients by TANAKA et al. (34) in the two patients who are the subject of the present study and more recently in other cases by PRANKERD (28) and LÖNNER AND WALLER (22).

It is likely that other enzymatic defects, besides that of PK, account for the particular behaviour of autohaemolysis in type II cases, but undoubtedly there exists a remarkable uniformity of clinical and haematological features within the same group. A greater occurrence of congenital non spherocytic haemolytic anaemia in persons of Northern-European stock has been admitted for a long time in fact with the exception of the Mexican patient studied by TANAKA et al. (34) and of our own two patients who belong to Umbrian families, all subjects with PK deficiency are of Northern origin. The lack of a systematic study of the distribution of the genetic defect in either its homozygous or heterozygous form, however, impedes us from attributing a typically racial character to this new enzymatic defect.

The first symptoms of haemolytic disease in subjects with PK deficiency appear in most cases, in the period immediately after birth, as in early infancy much more rarely at a more advanced age and never after 20 years of age. The seriousness of the haemolytic form is extremely variable the most frequent cases being those with

a notable degree of anaemia and with a great need for transfusions. DE GRUCHY *et al.* (9) underlined a difference in the clinical course of congenital non spherocytic haemolytic anaemia, in type I and type II cases, attributing a greater precocity of evolution and more accentuated haemolytic phenomenology to the latter. Some of the cases described by TANAKA *et al.* (34) and the two patients described by us, displayed on the contrary a moderately mild course and an extremely small transfusional need.

The observations of the various authors are sufficiently in agreement in attributing a character of moderate macrocytosis to type II congenital non spherocytic haemolytic anaemia. DE GRUCHY *et al.* (9) and DĄCZ *et al.* (6) called attention to the presence of crenated or irregularly contracted erythrocytes. Cells with these features were present in both cases studied by us. Evident morphological anomalies were not encountered however by TANAKA *et al.* (34). Evaluation of osmotic fragility generally normal or decreased in both fresh and incubated blood, helps in the diagnostic definition of these haemolytic forms, since it permits to differentiate the latter from manifest or latent cases of hereditary spherocytosis.

Greater importance must be given to the simple test of spontaneous haemolysis of blood incubated *in vitro* at 37 °C. for 24 to 48 hours, with or without the addition of glucose or ATP. In haemolytic anaemia due to PK deficiency identifiable with type II congenital non spherocytic haemolytic anaemia, autohaemolysis is notably increased and glucose is capable only of a slight, or of no, corrective capacity. ATP on the contrary is capable of preventing completely the haemolysis (9). TANAKA *et al.* (34) demonstrated that ADP and AMP are also capable of an analogous protective power shared, at least partially by other compounds such as DPN, TPN, GSH and CoA. It was, moreover noticed that adenosine can also partially correct spontaneous hyperhaemolysis.

Increase in autohaemolysis and the correction performed by ATP are directly correlated to the original enzymatic defect. In fact the only gain in energy of anaerobic glycolysis is obtained on a level with the PK reaction, since the production of ATP deriving from the GAPD reaction compensates the ATP loss linked to the phosphorylation of glucose and 6-P fructose. The phosphorylated compounds of adenosine would be effective in preventing hyperhaemolysis of PK deficient erythrocytes *in vitro*, because, through a pathway different from that which is habitual in anaerobic glyco-

lysis they lead to the reintegration of the erythrocyte ATP supply. The added ATP would first undergo dephosphorylation to ADP by the action of a phosphatase of the plasma, and then be converted to an equi-molecular quantity of AMP and ATP in the erythrocyte membrane by an adenylate kinase present there (16).

The defect of the ATP synthesis seems up to now the most severe metabolic consequence due to PK deficiency. Since it is from ATP that erythrocytes derive their energy for the most important vital functions (maintenance of a cationic gradient etc.) it appears logical that lack of it could assume an essential role in the pathogenesis of haemolysis. A study of splenic histology in PK deficiency haemolytic anaemia has demonstrated absence of any signs of erythrocytosis in the sinuses which is, on the contrary, a constant feature of hereditary spherocytosis (3). In case 1 where a histological study of the spleen showed the above picture, splenectomy did not bring about any change in hyperhaemolysis. From this it appears that haemolysis presents a fundamentally intra vascular feature in PK deficiency haemolytic anaemia. It is still unknown if other factors, besides the mentioned decrease in ATP synthesis, can participate in the determination of haemolysis, or if the severity of the haemolytic anaemia in different patients can be correlated with the degree of the enzyme defect. Although TANAKA et al. (34) noticed a remarkable fluctuation in PK values among patients with haemolytic anaemia they believe that the intensity of haemolysis tests, rather than easily correlated with the enzyme activity. However it seems essential for the production of haemolysis that the PK activity values remain below those of aldolase and hexokinase, high, being the lowest in the glycolytic chain act as pacemakers in the total speed of the metabolic cycle. It seems also likely that all the factors capable of determining an alteration of the activity ratio between PK and hexokinase can modify the degree of hyperhaemolysis in subjects with the enzyme defect.

The experimental data so far acquired lead to ascribe the decrease in PK activity to an actual enzyme defect. Activation studies performed by TANAKA et al. (34) and by us, employing haemolysates and normal stroma preparations, with or without addition of SH-compounds, like GSH or cysteine gave no evidence for the presence of inhibitors or the absence of physiological activators of PK activity in erythrocytes with PK deficiency. On the

contrary as far as the erythrocyte G-6-PD deficiency is concerned, the absence of a factor activating the enzyme in the stromata of enzyme-deficient erythrocytes has been suggested by several workers (30 29 11)

Determinations of PK performed in leukocytes (34) and in biopsy fragments of hepatic and muscular tissue (3) in patients with PK deficiency haemolytic anaemia, did not reveal an extension of the enzyme defect to cellular elements other than erythrocytes. This is not surprising since erythrocytes, by reason of their structure and of the poverty of their metabolic processes, display in respect to nucleated cells with a more active metabolism, a much greater predisposition for specific enzyme-defects induced by genetic aberrations. The G-6-PD-deficiency in subjects of white race reveals itself complete in erythrocytes but only partial in liver tissue (3)

In family members of patients with haemolytic anaemia the PK deficiency is milder than in the patients themselves. These intermediate values of PK activity are related to a heterozygous condition for the pathological gene. The remarkable difference among intermediate subjects leads to assume a great variability in penetration and expressiveness of the pathological gene in the heterozygous condition, as it has been repeatedly observed in G-6-PD deficiency (18, 19) On this basis, the family trees, in which the enzyme defect seems to be transmitted as a semi-dominant autosomal gene, can be easily interpreted. From the data collected by TANAKA *et al.* (34) and from our own experience as well, it can be concluded 1 If both parents are intermediate (that is heterozygote for the pathological gene) they can have children who are also intermediate or normal, or affected by the PK deficiency in its severest form, i.e. the haemolytic disease. 2 If one of the parents is normal and the other a homozygous carrier of the defect, all children will be heterozygotes. 3 If only one of the parents is intermediate, the children can be either normal or intermediate. The reverse condition is also true, since the enzymatic defect has never been encountered with, in total or partial form, without being parallelly documented also in the ancestors of the subjects in question.

PK-deficiency haemolytic anaemia is logically included in the group of enzyme-deficiency haemolytic anaemias. This term, originally applied to G-6-PD deficiency haemolytic forms (17 18) must now be extended to the anaemias of more recent *individuals*

ation due to lack of GSSG-reductase (5-21) of diphosphoglyceromutase (27-37) and of Ph. It is also very likely that the group of enzyme-deficiency haemolytic anaemias will be enlarged by the extension of enzymatic studies to other haemolytic forms which have so far been of difficult classification.

Summary

In two patients affected by congenital non spherocytic haemolytic anaemia of type II a deficiency of pyruvate-kinase (Ph) has been demonstrated. PK-deficient erythrocytes show also a marked decrease of their content in ATP, total pentoses and aldopentoses. Other glycolytic enzymes, as well as glutathion, appear to be normal. The Ph-deficiency seems to be transmitted through a semi-dominant autosomic gene. Heterozygous subjects, within the families of the two patients, are characterized by intermediate values of PK.

Résumé

L'existence d'un manque de la pyruvate-kinase (Ph) pouvait être démontrée chez deux malades, atteints d'une anémie hémolytique non sphérocytaire congénitale du type II. A part ce défaut de la PK, les érythrocytes étaient caractérisés par une diminution de l'ATP, des pentoses totaux et des aldo-pentoses. L'activité des autres ferments glycolytiques et la concentration de glutathion paraissent être normales. Le manque de la Ph est transmis par un gène autosomique semi-dominant. Des parents hétérozygotes des malades présentent des valeurs intermédiaires.

Zusammenfassung

Bei zwei Patienten mit kongenitaler nicht sphärocytärer hämolytischer Anämie Typ II wurde ein Mangel an Pyruvat-kinase (Ph) nachgewiesen. Neben dem PK-Mangel zeigten die Erythrocyten eine deutliche Verminderung des ATP, der Gesamt-Pentosen und der Aldopentosen. Die Aktivität der anderen glykolytischen Enzyme und der Glutathion-Gehalt liegen im Bereich der Norm. Der Ph-Mangel wird durch ein autosomales semidominantes Gen übertragen. Heterozygot Verwandte der Patienten zeigen in ermittelte PK-Werte.

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The Sizes and Interrelations of Lymphocytes in Thoracic Duct Lymph and Lymph Node of Normal and Stimulated Rats

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AND RUTH W. CAFFEY

The lymphocytes in thoracic duct lymph and lymph nodes have often been divided on the basis of size into three classes: large, medium and small. Unfortunately the limits between these classes have usually been arbitrarily chosen and have varied among species and among authors (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7). The problem of classification by morphology alone has been further complicated by the question of whether to measure a cell's total diameter or its nuclear diameter and by the fact that the size of cells in smears is markedly influenced by technique and the presence or absence of erythrocytes (4, 8).

Although the classes of lymphocytes have been established from morphological criteria alone, the demonstration that the developmental sequence of lymphocytes is from large to medium to small (8) has provided the suggestion that the classes may also be separated on the basis of their proliferative behavior. If possible, it would be desirable to have each class of lymphocytes include only those cells which exhibit similar developmental patterns. By using tritiated thymidine (TH³) with radioautography the rates of proliferation and labeling patterns of lymphocytes may be studied in relation to their cell or nuclear diameters, and the classes of large, medium and small may be defined from these functions. A major purpose of the present work is to classify lymphocytes so that the members of a given class have similar proliferative behavior and to establish morphologic boundaries between the classes in such a

manner that the similarities in development are preserved. A further purpose is to present evidence of changes in cell size induced by stimulation with irradiation or pertussis vaccine and to set the limits between the classes of lymphocytes so as to include these changes.

Previous papers from this laboratory have presented data showing that small lymphocytes may be grouped with respect to circulating life span into long and short lived types (9, 10). The long lived small lymphocytes have been shown to constitute the majority of the population in thoracic duct lymph (TDL) and lymph node (10) and have been strongly implicated in immune responses. When small lymphocytes are considered herein, it is this group that is being discussed.

Materials and Methods

Male rats (60 to 200 gm.) of either the Lewis or Sprague-Dawley strain were used in all experiments. Thoracic duct lymph was collected and smears of lymph or mixed marrow and lymph node were made for radioautography employing standard techniques previously described (5). Rats were labeled with tritiated thymidine (Schwarz Biochem. Co., St. Louis, Mo.) specific activity 1.9 c./mM) given according to one of the following schedules.

1. *Single injection.* TTI in dose of 1 μ c./gm. body weight was given intravenously to 4 animals which were sacrificed 15 minutes later. This schedule labeled only those cells synthesizing deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) in preparation for division.

2. *Repeated injections.* TTI in dose of 1 μ c./gm. body weight was injected intraperitoneally in 6 animals every 4 hours for 36 hours. The animals were sacrificed 4 hours after the last injection. This schedule was found to be equivalent to continuous infusion of TTI for 36 hours and labeled 100% of all rapidly proliferating cells.

3. *Multiple injection method.* Four animals received 0.5 μ c./gm. body weight TTI in series of 12 injections during 16-day period. The animals increased in weight from an average of 140 gm. during the injection period. Two weeks were allowed after the last injection in order to clear label from the rapidly proliferating elements and label the slowly proliferating elements labeled. This schedule proved valuable in labeling many of the long lived small lymphocytes of TDL and lymph nodes and in studying the relationship of these cells to their large and medium precursors under normal conditions.

Pertussis vaccine in dose of 0.2 ml. 5×10^8 cell/ml. or total body gamma irradiation (30) from ^{60}Co source was used to induce changes in lymphocyte size and proliferation. Animals labeled with TTI according to the multiple-injection method were given pertussis or irradiation the end of the two-week period after labeling and then were sacrificed from 1 to 14 days after stimulation.

After radioautographic processing smears of lymph or lymph node were evaluated microscopically and nuclear diameters were measured directly by means of a calibrated ocular micrometer. Because large cell smears were measured more frequently at the end of smears, each slide was systematically examined by scanning along the middle of the smear from one end to the other counting every 10th cell. Further details on measurements of the micrometer and Durrum

Results and Discussion

Smears from TDL or mesenteric node showed that cells ranged in size from 5 to 20 microns across. When labeling patterns were considered, it became evident that total cell diameter was not a reliable means of classifying cells into groups which showed similar proliferative behavior. There was a particular lack of reliability in stimulated rats where an increase in the size of both cells and nuclei was accompanied by a decrease in nuclear-cytoplasmic ratio. Accordingly a classification based on nuclear diameters and called "nuclear index" was developed and found to be reliable. The term nuclear index is defined as that product (expressed in square microns, μ^2) obtained when the nuclear diameter of a cell measured

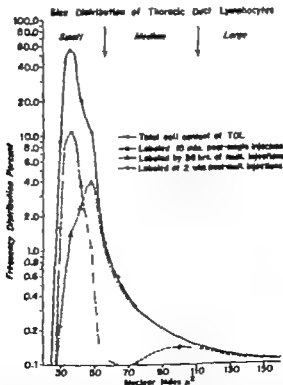


Fig 1 The normal size distribution of thoracic duct lymphocytes in the rat is shown in relation to the sizes of lymphocytes labeled by various injection schedules of tritiated thymidine. Note that logarithmic scale is used on the ordinate in order to represent clearly the small fraction of cells that are large and medium.

in one direction is multiplied by the nuclear diameter measured at right angles to the first. Utilizing the nuclear index, the frequency distribution of the various size cells in the TDL of several unstimulated animals was determined and plotted (fig. 1). It is seen that the most frequently encountered cell (56%) was one with a nuclear index of $36 \mu^2$ and hence with a nuclear diameter of 6μ .

In establishing the classes of lymphocytes so that each class contained only those cells which showed similar labeling patterns, it was necessary to recall not only that large and medium lymphocytes label immediately with TTH and give rise to smaller cells, but also that there is recent evidence that small lymphocytes may enlarge and leave their category. Indeed GOWANS et al. (11) and PORTER AND COOPER (12) have shown enlargement of small lymphocytes to large pyroninophilic cells when the small cells were stimulated by antigens from a foreign strain. The data to be presented below show a similar enlargement of small cells within one strain when appropriately stimulated. Together these lines of evidence indicate that while the largest and smallest lymphocytes probably fall into the typical developmental scheme noted above, there is an intermediate class of cells (medium) which may arise either by division of the large or enlargement of the small lymphocytes.

From a proliferative point of view then the classes of lymphocytes were established as follows:

1. *Large* These are rapidly proliferating cells probably deriving from some "stem" cell in lymph nodes and dividing to form other cells at least many of which are medium lymphocytes. 50% or more of these cells are labeled 15 minutes after a single injection of TTH. 100% are labeled by intensive injections for 36 hours, and none is labeled two weeks after injections are discontinued. All lymphocytes with a nuclear index greater than $81 \mu^2$ are labeled by 36 hours of intensive TTH injections (fig. 1) and could be viewed as belonging to this rapidly proliferating class in the non-stimulated rat. However the lower limit of the large must be high enough to exclude the largest cell which arises after stimulation of small lymphocytes. Because heavily labeled cells with a nuclear index as great as $100 \mu^2$ are occasionally found (fig. 2) after irradiation of multiple injection animals which initially contain labeled lymphocytes with a nuclear index no greater than $64 \mu^2$ the lower limit of large in the rat is set at $110 \mu^2$.

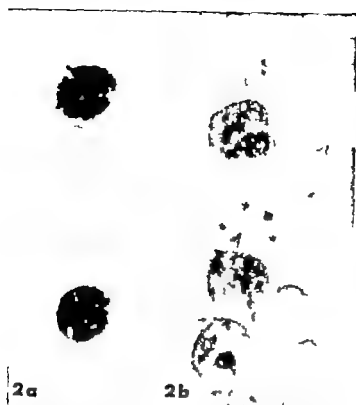


Fig 2. Radiostereographs of thoracic duct lymphocytes from control and irradiated rats showing enlargement of lymphocytes with irradiation.

- a) An example of the largest labeled lymphocyte found in a control animal 28 days after multiple injections of tritiated thymidine. $\times 1500$.
- b) An example of the largest labeled lymphocyte found in an animal 28 days after multiple injections of tritiated thymidine and 11 days after the administration of 300 total body gamma irradiation. $\times 1500$.

■ *Small*. These are non-dividing cells which do not label 15 minutes after TTH and become labeled only by divisions of labeled precursors. When multiple injection interval animals which contain labeled lymphocytes that are mainly small are stimulated with pertussis vaccine, there is an increase in the average nuclear index of labeled cells from $36 \mu^2$ to $50 \mu^2$ (fig 3). Most of these stimulated lymphocytes are still "small" that is, incapable of division as shown by their failure to label with a single TTH injection. A few, however, may enlarge sufficiently to be considered medium, and it is probable that many more enlarge to medium

when they are stimulated by radiation rather than pertussis (fig. 3). When these observations are balanced against the fact that multiple-injection interval animals which may contain a few labeled medium cells have no labeled cells larger than $64 \mu^2$ the boundary between medium and small is set at $56 \mu^2$.

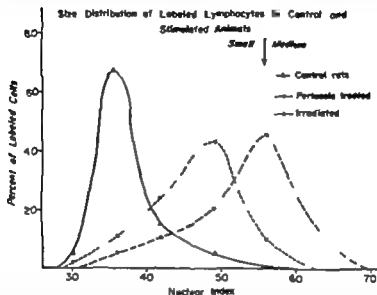


Fig. 2. The size distribution of labeled thoracic duct lymphocytes in control rats is compared to the size distribution of labeled lymphocytes in rats stimulated with irradiation or pertussis vaccine to show enlargement of small lymphocytes with stimulation. The control curve represents the sizes of labeled lymphocytes found in rats at any time between the 16th and 30th day after multiple injections of tritiated thymidine. The pertussis curve represents the sizes found 18 days after multiple injections of tritiated thymidine and after 2 days of pertussis vaccine administration. The irradiation curve shows the sizes found 23 days after multiple injections of tritiated thymidine and 12 days after the administration of 300 r total body gamma irradiation.

3. *Medium*. These cells which from the above considerations have a nuclear index of less than $110 \mu^2$ and more than $56 \mu^2$ arise either by division of the large or enlargement of the small lymphocytes. They are capable of division as shown by the fact that some are labeled 15 minutes after TTH. The difference between this class and the large is seen in intensive-injection rats where even 10 days after 100% of the large are labeled a small percentage of medium remain unlabeled. In addition two weeks after multiple injections all large lymphocytes have lost their radioactivity but a few medium cells remain labeled. It is believed from the present study as well as from the data of GONANS *et al.* (11) that medium cells which

arise by enlargement of small lymphocytes subsequently divide to form more small cells.

It is hoped that the present classification which provides similarities in development and proliferation within groups will prove useful in reducing confusion in existing systems based only on morphology. It is to be noted that the proposed classification depends primarily on proliferative behavior as revealed by DNA labeling patterns and that the nuclear index values which separate classes may not be the same from one species to another.

Acknowledgments: The authors wish to thank Prof. MELVIN FOLEY and ROBERT PARKER of the Department of Radiology, University of Washington School of Medicine, for their advice and use of the Co⁶⁰ radiotherapy unit employed in the irradiation of the animals in this study.

This work was supported by AEC research grant AT (43-1) 1377.

Summary

A classification of the lymphocytes of the thoracic duct and mesenteric lymph node is proposed on the basis of labeling patterns shown with tritiated thymidine and radioautography in control and irradiation or pertussis-stimulated rats. The classification employs a term called nuclear index (the product in square microns of two perpendicular nuclear diameters) and provides similarities in proliferation as well as in appearance within groups of lymphocytes. New evidence is presented to show that small lymphocytes enlarge with at least some becoming medium when appropriately stimulated.

The following kinetic characteristics of each class are developed: 1. Large lymphocytes (nuclear index of 110 μ^2 or more) are rapidly proliferating cells which derive from stem cells. 2. Medium lymphocytes (56 to 110 μ^2) probably represent a mixed class originating mainly by division of large lymphocytes but also in part by enlargement of small lymphocytes. 3. Small lymphocytes (56 μ^2 or less) are non-dividing cells which become labeled only as a consequence of being formed by division of labeled larger precursors.

Résumé

Les auteurs proposent une classification de lymphocytes du ductus thoracicus et des ganglions lymphatiques mésentériques à la base de leurs recherches à l'aide de la thymidine marquée au tritium et de l'autoradiographie chez des rats normaux irradiés ou traités par un vaccin anti-coqueluche. La classification se base sur un index nucléaire (produit de deux diamètres perpendiculaires en microns carrés) et présente des analogies de la prolifération et de la morphologie parmi certains groupes de lymphocytes. On peut obtenir des indices nouveaux pour l'existence d'une croissance des petits lymphocytes, dont au moins quelques-uns atteignent une grandeur moyenne, ils sont stimulés d'une façon adéquate.

Les caractéristiques suivantes de chaque classe sont établies: 1. Les grands lymphocytes (index nucléaire 110 μ^2 et d'avantage) sont des éléments d'une prolifération rapide, descendant de cellules-souches. 2. Les lymphocytes moyens (56-110 μ^2) forment probablement une classe mixte, formés surtout par la division de grands lymphocytes, en partie par l'augmentation de petits lymphocytes. 3. Les petits lymphocytes (56 μ^2 et moins) sont des cellules qui ne peuvent plus se diviser et qui sont uniquement marquées parce qu'elles sont formés par la division de formes antécédentes plus grandes et marquées.

Zusammenfassung

Auf Grund von Untersuchungen mit Tritium-markiertem Thymidin und Autoradiographie bei Kontrolltieren und bei bestrahlten oder mit Pernixis-V akzine geimpften Ratten wird eine Klassierung der Lymphozyten im Ductus thoracicus und mesenterialen Lymphknoten vorgeschlagen. Die Klassierung stützt sich auf den sogenannten Kernindex (das Produkt von zwei zu einander senkrechten Kerndurchmessern in Quadratmikron) und ergibt Ähnlichkeiten der Proliferation und der Erscheinungsform innerhalb gewisser Gruppen von Lymphozyten. Es ergeben sich neue Anhaltspunkte dafür, daß kleine Lymphozyten sich vergrößern, wobei mindestens einzelne kleinere Größe erreichen, wenn sie entsprechend stimuliert werden.

Es lassen sich die folgenden kinetischen Charakteristika jeder Klasse aufstellen. 1. Große Lymphozyten (Kernindex $110 \mu^2$ oder mehr) sind rasch proliferierende Elemente, die von Stammzellen abstammen. 2. Mitttelgroße Lymphozyten (56 bis $110 \mu^2$) bilden wahrscheinlich eine gemischte Klasse, die überwiegend durch Teilung großer Lymphozyten, zum Teil aber auch durch Vergrößerung kleiner Lymphozyten entsteht. 3. Kleine Lymphozyten ($56 \mu^2$ und weniger) sind nicht teilungsfähige Zellen, die nur deshalb markiert werden, weil sie durch Teilung markierter größerer Vorstufen gebildet werden.

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The Histogenesis and Haematology of Virus-Induced Myeloid Leukaemia in the Fowl*

By BENGT LAGERLÖF AND PÄR SUNDELIN

A number of studies have been made in the past on the histogenesis and development of virus-induced erythroleukaemia in the fowl (1 3 5 8 9 10). Myeloid leukaemia, on the other hand, has received less attention in this respect in spite of the many virological and biochemical investigations performed regarding this disease. In the myeloid leukaemia, the granulopoietic stem cells located extravasally in the bone marrow undergo neoplastic transformation. In contrast to the case in erythroleukaemia, there is a considerable age variation in respect of the susceptibility to myeloid leukaemia virus. Newly hatched chicks are highly sensitive and display a high frequency of leukaemia, two week-old chicks are slightly less sensitive, while at 2 months the resistance to the virus is complete (7 11). Another difference from erythroleukaemia virus is that the myeloid virus in the plasma preparations employed and under the prevalent laboratory conditions displays a wider cytotropism for not only leukaemia but also visceral lymphomatosis, renal tumours, osteopetrosis and haemangiomatosis may develop in chicks inoculated with the virus at 2 weeks of age (2, 7 11). Some animals with leukaemia run an atypical course of the disease and develop a subleukaemic anaemia characterized by severe anaemia of haemolytic type, granulocytopenia and subleukaemic blood picture (7).

The purpose of the present study was to establish the histogenesis and haematological development of the myeloid form of leukaemia and is intended to constitute a basis for further investigations into the disease.

*A grant has been received for this research from the Lady Tass Memorial Trust.

Material and Methods

Fowl strain: A white Leghorn (Edo) strain was used. The properties and maintenance of this strain have been reported earlier (3, 7).

The *virus strain* and preparation of virus suspensions have been described elsewhere (7-11). Each chick was given 0.3 ml. heparinized plasma from leukaemic chicks; according to adenine triphosphatase values these doses were expected to give at least 80% takes in newly-hatched chicks.

Haematologic values: Regular determinations were made of the haematocrit, erythrocytes and leukocytes (concentration and differential counts). To minimize the volume of the blood required from these small chicks a method was evolved in which all the above values could be read from the haematocrit and smears of the peripheral blood. In a separate experiment the ratio between haematocrit and the erythrocyte concentration was determined with gradually increasing dilution of blood in autologous plasma (fig. 1). The haematocrit was determined in the usual way in heparinized capillary tubes, which were centrifuged for 5 minutes in haematocrit centrifuge (International). For the cell counts 10 to 20 cu. mm. of blood were diluted in 10 ml. of Ringer's solution. The counts covered 8 small squares of Fuchs-Rosenthal counting chamber corresponding to 0.1 cu. mm., or at least 200 cells.

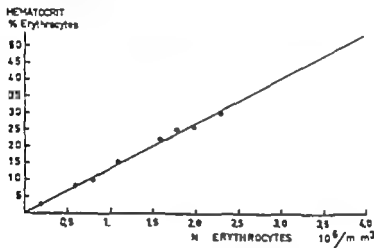


Fig. 1 The correlation between the erythrocyte concentration in the haematocrit and the erythrocyte count with increasing dilution.

The number of erythrocytes per cu. mm. of blood was then interpolated from the graph in fig. 1 giving the ratio between the haematocrit and erythrocyte concentration.

The leukocyte count was difficult to perform in suspension, owing to the preponderance of erythrocytes, which being nucleated cannot be eliminated by haemolysis. The leukocytes were therefore estimated by calculating the number of white cells per 6000 to 7000 erythrocytes in smears. The coefficient of variation of this estimate of white corpuscles was 13%.

To ascertain whether the sample-taking had any appreciable effect on the haematologic values, and to test the reproducibility of the haematocrit, determinations of haemoglobin and haematocrit were made on alternate days on a control group of 10 one-

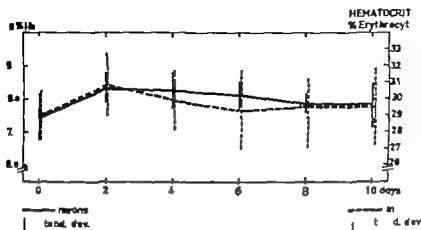


Fig. 2. The relationship between the haematocrit and haemoglobin in control chicks as determined by repeated blood samples.

week-old chicks. For the former test 20 cu.mm. of venous blood were haemolyzed in 3.5 ml. of 0.1% sodium carbonate, and the extinction of the haemoglobin solution at 5400 Å was measured in a Linco S photometer. The relationship between the variation in haematocrit and haemoglobin is illustrated in fig. 2. The blood loss due to the sampling, which is of the same order as the amount taken for the samples in the same experiments, proved to be negligible.

Histologic preparation. From the chicks on which histologic examination was to be performed the marrow in both femurs and tibiae was removed and specimens were taken of the liver, spleen, kidneys and lungs. The specimens were fixed in Seive's fluid (saccharic chloride, formalin and glacial acetic acid) and stained by the haematoxylin-eosin and Giemsa methods. The marrow sections were also stained by Van Gieson's technique, and sections from the spleen also by Haack's method for iron pigment.

Results

Hematologic Findings

The development and course of the myeloid leukaemia in the peripheral blood was examined in a group of 9 five-day-old chicks. The results are shown in figs. 3-5.

Leukaemia cells. The onset of leukaemia occurred at widely varying periods after virus inoculation (fig. 3). In one chick leukaemia cells were recognized in the peripheral blood after only 5 days and the disease progressed until death on day 18 (no. 4). The course was similar for some of the other chicks except for a slightly later onset (nos. 2, 5 and 6). Two chicks exhibited short episodes of leukaemia about days 22 and 26, but the ordinarily seen progressive course of the disease did not start until days 43 and 61 respectively.

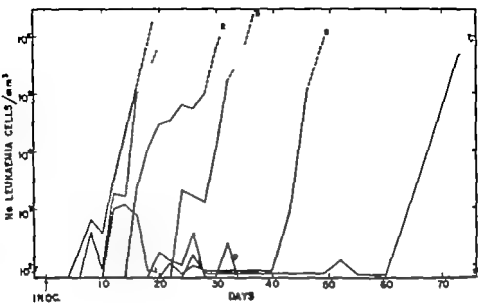


Fig 3. Leukaemia cell infiltration in the blood of chicks after intravenous inoculation of myeloid leukaemia virus at 5 days of age.

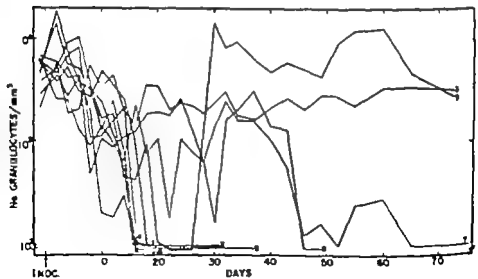


Fig 4. Granulocytes in the blood of the same chicks as in Fig. 3.

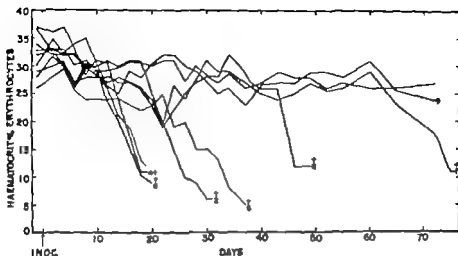


Fig. 5. Haematocrit values in the same chicks as in fig. 3. The crosses indicate the death of the chicks.

(nos. 7 and 8) One chick had mild transient leukaemia for 2 weeks and thereafter no signs of the disease (no. 9). Another chick also had peripheral leukaemia of brief duration but this was accompanied by rapidly progressing anaemia, and death from "subleukaemic anaemia" (7) followed on day 19 (no. 1).

Granulocytes Several of the chicks showed a slight decrease in the granulocyte counts during the first 2 weeks (fig. 4). At a late stage, when there was evident peripheral leukaemia, severe granulocytopenia often developed (e.g. nos. 2, 4, 5 and 8). One of these chicks also showed a drop in the granulocyte count in connection with an episode of peripheral leukaemia on about day 30 (no. 8). A similar course was noted for a chick recording two episodes of peripheral leukaemia on about day 26 and 52 (no. 7). In one case transient granulocytosis developed rapidly after a drop in connection with peripheral leukaemia on days 20 and 52 (no. 9).

Erythrocytes All the chicks that died showed a marked decrease in the erythrocyte concentration (fig. 5). Some chicks exhibited a slight decrease during the first week but in all except two survivors (nos. 3 and 9) there was a steep drop one or two weeks prior to death. The two survivors both showed a transient fall about day 22, and in one of them this was associated with mild leukaemia between

days 20 and 32 (no. 9) The other survivor did not display a leukaemic blood picture (no. 3) These two chicks were observed for a further 4 months, during which time the blood values were normal, with no further signs of leukaemia and no renal tumours or lymphomatosis.

Histologic Findings

The main results of the histologic examination are presented in table I Six chicks, inoculated at 3 days of age, were examined daily from day 2 to 9 and on days 11 and 13 The chicks to be sacrificed were selected at random Irrespective of any leukaemic blood picture Chicks showing no signs of leukaemia have not been included in the table I

As far as the leukaemia is concerned, the target organ for the virus is the bone marrow and the first neoplastic signs were found there. The granulopoiesis occurs in the extramedullary tissue and the first morphologic signs of the leukaemia were multiple small extramedullary foci in the femur marrow These foci, which were first observed on the day 4 consisted of atypical myeloid tumour cells among which few granulocytes were noted (fig 6) A frequent feature was the invasion of the sinusoids by leukaemic cells (fig 7) The small leukaemic foci extended and formed tumour buds (fig 8) which merged to produce larger foci and finally massive invasion of the marrow The marrow of the tibia, on the other hand which contains a larger amount of fat, displayed no early changes, but at a late stage of the disease it often contained small leukaemic foci between regions of massive leukaemic invasion (fig 9)

To judge from the histologic findings there was during the first 3 or 4 days after inoculation a general reaction in the marrow consisting in hyperplasia of both granulopoietic and erythropoietic tissue No cell counts were performed however There was no appreciable lymphoid hyperplasia such as was found in the case of subleukaemic anaemia (7) At the later stage of leukaemia there was a replacement of the erythropoietic cells by leukaemic tissue and in massively invaded marrow erythropoiesis was practically absent.

Leukaemic infiltration in extramedullary organs was found already one day after the bone marrow involvement. The distant infiltration was mild at first, with isolated leukaemia cells and small

Table I

Leukaemic cell infiltration in different organs after intravenous inoculation of leukaemia virus.

Days after inoc.	Grade of leukaemic infiltration				
	Bone marrow	Spleen	Liver	Kidneys	Lungs
4	+	—	—	—	—
4	+	—	—	—	—
4	++	—	—	—	—
5	+	—	+	—	—
5	+	++	—	—	+
5	++	++	—	—	—
6	+	—	+	—	—
6	++	—	++	+	+
6	+++	—	+	—	+
6	++++	—	++	—	+
7	+	++	—	—	+
7	+++	++	+	—	+
7	+++	+++	++	++	++
7	+++	+++	++	—	—
7	++++	+++	++	++	++
8	++	++	—	—	++
8	+++	—	+	—	+
8	+++	+	++	+	+
9	+	++	+	—	+
9	+	+	+	—	—
9	++	—	+	+	+
9	++	—	+	+	+
9	++++	++	+	+	++
11	+++	++++	+	++	++
11	+++	+++	+	++	++
11	+++	+++	++	+++	++++
11	++++	++++	++	+++	+++
13	++	—	—	—	—
13	+++	+++	+++	+	+++
13	+++	+++	+++	+	+++
13	+++	+++	+++	++	+++
13	+++	+++	++	+++	+++

Leukaemic infiltration in
Bone marrow:

- + Occasional admixes foci of leukaemia cells as shown in Figs. 6 and 7
- ++ Many small, limited foci of leukaemia cells.
- +++ Several large, partly confluent foci of leukaemia cells.
- ++++ Heavy leukaemic infiltration with almost complete replacement of the normal tissue.

Spleen, liver and lung

- + Occasional leukaemia cells.
- ++ Several leukaemia cells, often in small foci in the spleen and liver
- +++ Marked leukaemic infiltration with several foci of leukaemia cells in the spleen and liver
- ++++ Heavy leukaemic infiltration.

foci. At a later stage the spleen, liver and kidneys contained confluent infiltrates, and in the terminal stage the greater part of the spleen and liver were involved. The only remaining normal tissue in the spleen was found in parts of the Malpighian corpuscles, while in the liver only central parts of the lobuli were saved (7). The kidneys displayed consistently less marked infiltration which for the most part occurred as foci in the cortex.

In the lung tissue the infiltration was more diffuse but in the terminal stage it could be almost massive and completely obliterate the normal architecture.

In contrast to the findings in the subleukaemic anaemia described earlier (7) no iron pigment was found in sections from the spleens.

Non-specific changes A control group of 42 three-day-old chicks were inoculated with 0.5 ml. of leukaemia plasma which had been inactivated for 48 hours at 37 °C. None of 6 chicks left for 3 months to test the effect of inactivation developed leukaemia. After one to six days one group of 6 of the remaining chicks was sacrificed daily and examined histologically in the same way as the virus-inoculated chicks. In most of these the marrow displayed a non-specific myeloid reaction that was morphologically distinct from leukaemic proliferation in that it occurred diffusely in the marrow and that the cell flora was dominated by mature granulocytes with small interspersions of myeloblasts (fig. 10). As in the case of the virus inoculated chicks the erythropoiesis was also slightly stimulated.

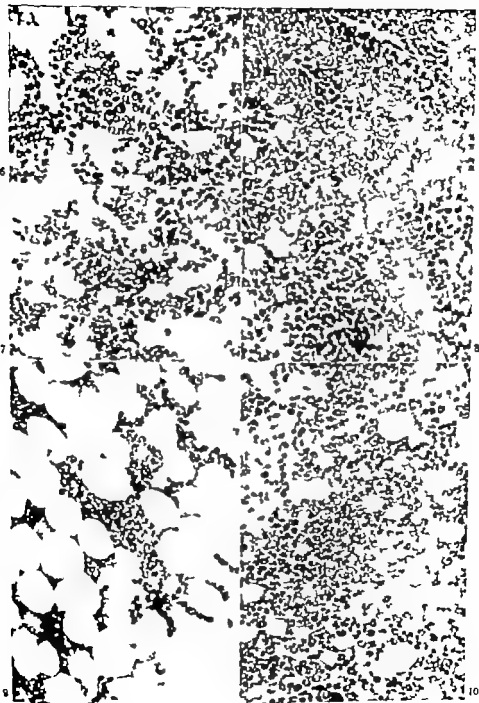
Fig. 6 Femur marrow of chick 4 days after inoculation with virus. An early leukaemic focus seen in the extramedullary tissue (centre). Haematoxylin and eosin. $\times 400$.

Fig. 7 Femur marrow of the same chick as in fig. 6. Invasion of leukaemic cells into sinusoid from a minute leukaemic focus. Giemsa. $\times 400$.

Fig. 8 Femur marrow of chick 5 days after inoculation with virus. Leukaemic tumour foci proliferating in the extramedullary tissue. Few granulocytes are seen. Within the sinusoids the number of erythropoietic cells is normal. Giemsa. $\times 400$.

Fig. 9 Tibia marrow of chick 8 days after inoculation with virus. Intra- and extramedullary leukaemia foci in the tibial marrow. There is no evidence of normal haematopoiesis. Giemsa. $\times 400$.

Fig. 10 Femur marrow of chick 3 days after inoculation with inactivated leukaemic plasma. There is no granulopoiesis, dominated by mature granulocytes, none of which are myeloblasts. Haematoxylin and eosin. $\times 400$.



Discussion

It has been shown in earlier studies that virus-induced erythro-leukaemia in the fowl begins as small intrasinusoidal foci in the marrow unlike the diffuse hyperplasia seen in the erythroid reaction, for instance after haemolysis. The first signs of erythroid neoplasia were found on the third day after inoculation and on day 5 there was peripheral infiltration. The erythroleukaemia followed a rapid course and the chicks died only 7 days after inoculation (5, 8, 9).

To judge from the findings of the present study myeloid leukaemia in the fowl has in principle a similar histogenesis and development. After a lag phase of 3 days the first morphologic signs of myeloid neoplasia were found extrasinusoidally in the haematopoietic marrow of the femur (table I, fig. 6). These small tumour foci often displayed signs of invasion into the sinusoids (fig. 7) and thus created the conditions for early haematogenic spread of the tumour cells. The extramedullary infiltration also took place considerably earlier in myeloid leukaemia than in erythroleukaemia as judged from the extent of the leukaemic proliferation in the marrow. In erythroleukaemia no distant infiltration is seen until the leukaemia is advanced in marrow (5) while in myeloid leukaemia such infiltration is evident when the marrow is only slightly involved. This might be due to the capacity of active mobility of the myeloid cells.

The duration of the leukaemia, from the first signs of infiltration of the peripheral blood until the death of the chick, varied from 12 to 15 days (fig. 3); the longer survival times include aleukaemic periods. The duration of the period of final progressive leukaemia ranged from 6 to 15 days for the chicks in fig. 3. The slightly shorter survival period in erythroleukaemia (6) is probably due to the fact that chicks with myeloid leukaemia do not die until the leukaemia is considerably more advanced and need not imply a major proliferative activity of the erythroleukaemia.

In contrast to myelosis in man (4) the myeloid leukaemia in the fowl displays a tendency to focal peripheral infiltration, located for instance periportal in the liver. The erythroid leukaemia in the fowl has a considerably more diffuse pattern of infiltration than the myeloid form.

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Histochemical Studies of Leukocytes from an Inflammatory Exudate

IV Uridine Diphosphate Glucose Glycogen Transglycosylase

By HENRIK R. WULF

In a previous study it was shown that the glycogen content of neutrophilic granulocytes and macrophages from skin windows increases with the progress of the inflammatory process (8). The migrating cells also presented an increasing phosphorylase activity and it was assumed that leukocyte glycogen is synthesized from glucose 1 phosphate via the phosphorylase system. In other tissues, however glycogen synthesis has been shown to take place from uridine diphosphate glucose by uridine diphosphate glucose-glycogen transglycosylase (5-7) and in the present investigation this alternative pathway for the biosynthesis of glycogen has been studied histochemically in migrating leukocytes.

Methods

Principle of histochemical reaction (7) The leukocytes are incubated in medium containing uridine diphosphate glucose and a small amount of glycogen as primer. During incubation cells possessing sufficient uridine diphosphate glucose glycogen transglycosylase activity synthesise polysaccharide in the cytoplasm, which is afterwards demonstrated by staining with iodine. Addition of glucose-6-phosphate has been shown to accelerate the reaction in other tissues.

Sampling of leukocytes and histochemical procedure The leukocytes were obtained by the "skin window" technique, as previously described (6, 8). Six "skin window" experiments were made on two healthy subjects, and the coverlips were changed hourly for 12 hours. Each coverlip with migrating leukocytes was dried for a few seconds after removal from the lesion, flooded with 3 drops of incubation medium and left for 2 hours at room temperature in moist chamber. After incubation the coverlip preparation was dipped in distilled water, dried quickly in air and fixed in methanol. Finally the preparation was stained for one minute with (undiluted) Gram's iodine solution and mounted in glycerine jelly containing 20% Gram solution (or the preparation as

Aided by grant from Arvid Nilsson's Fond

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son of glucose-6-phosphate from the medium did not alter the reaction appreciably. The control preparations, which were incubated in media without uridine diphosphate glucose, were negative. No uridine diphosphate glucose-glycogen transglycosylase activity was demonstrated in leukocytes from blood films.

Comment

The experiments showed that migrating neutrophils and macrophages are able to synthesize polysaccharide from uridine diphosphate glucose and not only as previously demonstrated from glucose 1 phosphate by the phosphorylase system (8). Both histochemical reactions result in the formation of iodophilic polysaccharides, but notable differences were observed in the distribution of the two enzyme systems and the staining properties and localization of the histochemically synthesized polysaccharides. Uridine diphosphate glucose-glycogen transglycosylase activity was equally prominent in macrophages and neutrophils, whereas phosphorylase activity was much more intense in neutrophils than in macrophages. The polysaccharides synthesized from glucose 1 phosphate usually stained blue with iodine, indicating an unbranched amylose type of polysaccharide, although "branching enzyme" activity was shown by the occasional occurrence of a violet or brown staining reaction. The uridine diphosphate glucose-glycogen transglycosylase reaction, however, resulted in the formation of a polysaccharide, which stained red brown like naturally occurring glycogen in other tissues. Preformed glycogen in leukocytes from peripheral blood and "skin windows" does not stain with iodine under normal conditions, but iodophilic glycogen has been demonstrated in neutrophils from blood in infective states and in neutrophils from purulent exudates (1). The intracellular localization of the polysaccharides synthesized in the two reactions also differed. The polysaccharide formed from uridine diphosphate glucose was localized in smaller and larger masses, whereas the polysaccharide formed from glucose 1 phosphate was usually seen as a diffuse staining of the cytoplasm.

The fact that no uridine diphosphate glucose-glycogen transglycosylase activity was demonstrated in leukocytes from most of the early "skin window" preparations and in leukocytes from blood films is not evidence that they do not synthesize polysaccharide via this pathway. A high activity of the enzyme is probably necessary

for its histochemical demonstration since the accumulation of the polysaccharide in the cytoplasm reflects a balance between synthesis and diffusion into the medium. In the present experiments polyvinyl pyrrolidone was found to be an essential constituent of the medium. Addition of this inert substance increases the viscosity of the mixture and may thereby diminish the loss of histochemically synthesized polysaccharide by diffusion (2).

It has been suggested that glycogen is normally synthesized from uridine diphosphate glucose, and that the phosphorylase pathway under physiological conditions is concerned with glycogen degradation (4). Histochemical experiments, however, have revealed a reciprocal relationship between phosphorylase and uridine diphosphate glucose-glycogen transglycosylase activity in individual muscle fibres (3) and it seems more likely that the biosynthesis of glycogen takes place via both pathways.

Summary

Migrating leukocytes obtained by the "skin window" technique were examined for activity of uridine diphosphate glucose-glycogen transglycosylase, using TARRUCHI AND GLASER'S method. A positive reaction was observed in both neutrophils and macrophages from the later stages of the inflammatory process. The polysaccharide synthesized from uridine diphosphate glucose stained red-brown with iodine and was localized in smaller and larger masses in the cytoplasm.

Résumé

Etude de l'activité de transglycosylase du système glucose diphosphate de l'uridine glycosylase de leucocytes émigrés obtenus à l'aide de la méthode de la fenêtre cutanée, par la méthode de TARRUCHI ET GLASER. Les neutrophiles, ainsi que les macrophages des stades tardifs du processus inflammatoire présentent une réaction positive. Les polysaccharides, synthétisés à partir du glucose diphosphate de l'uridine, sont colorés en rouge-brun par le jode et sont localisés en quantités plus ou moins grandes dans le cytoplasme.

Zusammenfassung

Ausgewanderte Leukozyten, die mit der «Hautfenster-Technik» gewonnen wurden, wurden mit der Methode von TARRUCHI UND GLASER auf die Aktivität der Uridindiphosphat-Glukose-Glykogen-Transglykosylase untersucht. Eine positive Reaktion fand sich sowohl in Neutrophilen als auch in Makrophagen von Spätstadien des Entzündungsprozesses. Die aus Uridin-diphosphat-Glukose synthetisierten Polysaccharide färbten sich mit Jod rotbraun und waren in kleineren und größeren Massen im Zytoplasma lokalisiert.

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John E. Mandel. Bone Changes in Hematologic Disorders. (Roentgen Aspects) Grune & Stratton, New York and London 1963. 231 p., price \$ 9.50.
This book, Mount Sinai Hospital Monograph, is a collection of typical and atypical bone findings in various blood dyscrasias with excellently reproduced illustrations and brief explanatory text and comments. Each chapter has a list of references, mostly from the American literature. G. Rossouw New York, N.Y.

Brodie E., Fairbanks P.F. and Foley J.L. Clinical Disorders of Iron Metabolism. Grune & Stratton, New York and London 1963. 267 p., price \$ 8.75.
According to the preface this book is written for the student, the resident and the practicing physician. After an interesting but rather lengthy history about iron in medicine (with cartoonlike illustration showing the mountain road to knowledge) single chapters deal aptly with the metabolism of iron, iron deficiencies and their clinical syndromes. Here is also a far fetched description of Dibia included as an educational pigmentary syndrome, endemic in the Congo and other parts of Central Africa although (according to the text) "the role of iron lack in this syndrome is far from conclusive". Other chapters present oral and parenteral iron therapy, iron poisoning, particularly in children and a section on hemochromatosis. Each chapter has an up to date list of references. G. Rossouw New York, N.Y.

Beckwith, Thomas H. and Finch, Clifton A. Iron Metabolism. Little, Brown and Company Boston 1962. 440 p., price \$ 15.00.
This is an excellent presentation of all facts of iron metabolism. Two chapters survey critically the technical methods employed in studies of iron metabolism. It is evident that some of the widely accepted concepts concerning iron metabolism were based on techniques which were "not adequate by present day standards. Everyone who is working in this field will read and study these chapters with particular interest. The other sections on body iron turnover, plasma transferrin, ferrokinetics, erythrokinetics, tissue iron stores, iron deficiency anemia and the pathologic and clinical aspects of iron overload are very informative, clearly written presentations with extensive lists of references. The book is highly recommended. G. Rossouw New York, N.Y.

Kellie P. and Haskins, R. H. Progress in Allergy Vol. 6, S. Sarger AG, Basel/New York, 1962. XII + 600 p., 78 ill., 38 tab., price \$F 98.
Der neueste Band über die Fortschritte der Allergie befasst vorwiegend Überblicke über immunologische Probleme. Ocularallergy behandelt die überörtlichen Grundlagen sowie die neuesten technischen Verbesserungen seiner Gel-Diffusions-Methode. Eine Zusammenfassung über das gruppenspezifische Serum-System (Co-System) gibt Hirschman. Goss und Mitarbeiter berichten über immunologische Mangelerkrankheiten, ferner Waldmann über Osmophilien. Bosworth und Auer geben je eine ausführliche Übersicht über die Reaktionen gegen Transplantate. Es folgt eine kurze Darstellung über die Eigenschaften der Slow Reacting Substance von Boecklerstein und schließlich behandeln Thomsen und Boecklerstein Zusammenhänge zwischen RES und immunologischen Phänomenen. G. Ziegler, Basel

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RNA and Protein Synthesis in Normal Peripheral Mononuclear Leukocytes

A Radioautographic Study

By U. TORRELLI, G. GROSSI, T. ARTURI AND G. EMILIA

In recent years, several studies have led to re-examine the problem of the functional capacity of normal peripheral mononuclear leukocytes. According to the results of well tried experiments in several laboratories through out the world peripheral mononuclear cells have the capacity of growing in tissue culture (15). Furthermore some excellent experiments have proved that transfused leukocytes from normal blood are capable of repopulating the bone marrow of lethally irradiated animals (8, 18) and that circulating blood contains a mobile pool of cells able to initiate immunological reactions, i. e. homograft reactions (7).

It seems, therefore, that many peripheral mononuclear leukocytes are cells in a state of "no cell cycle" —to use the words of LAJTHA et al. (11)—capable of passing from an inactive phase (24) to an active one, and thus of starting a new growth cycle. Since information about cells in this kind of functional state is particularly needed, mainly in consideration of the general problem of the "stem cell" we thought that the study of some metabolic features of peripheral mononuclear cells might be a useful approach.

Our present knowledge allows to think that among the metabolic cell processes related to cell differentiation, protein synthesis is the process mainly concerned. As a matter of fact both RNA and proteins are synthesized continuously in a great number of cells, even in the cells of adult connective tissue (4, 12). However the quantitative correlation between the two processes has not yet been studied extensively. As far as the cells of the blood forming organs

are concerned a direct relationship has been found between RNA synthesis and protein synthesis in differentiated cells of human bone marrow (17).

Nevertheless, a relationship of this type cannot be considered as the rule. As it has been pointed out by RAACKE (19) no constant relationship can be observed between the protein synthesis and the amount of RNA present in the cell, the amount synthesized in the cell or even the amount metabolized in the cell. It seems, therefore, conceivable that if a quantitative dissociation between RNA synthesis and protein synthesis can be observed there are differences, as far as the RNA synthesis/protein synthesis ratio is concerned, among blood cells at different levels of functional differentiation. It is quite evident that such study can be performed only on cells, and that autoradiography with tritium labelled compounds is the best method for this purpose.

This paper deals with a comparative investigation of RNA and protein synthesis in peripheral mononuclear cells using H^3 cytidine and H^3 leucine as labelled precursors.

Material and Methods

Blood was obtained from eight normal individuals. The in vitro incubation mixtures were prepared by adding 2 ml of normal saline containing 100 μ c of H^3 -cytidine or 100 μ c of H^3 -leucine (the Radiochemical Centre, Amersham, England) to 8 ml of heparinized venous blood, so that the final concentration was 10 μ c/ml.

The mixtures were incubated in siliconized test-tubes. After mixing, the tubes containing the mixtures with H^3 -cytidine were left for 1 hour at 37°C while the tubes with H^3 -leucine were left at the same temperature for 2 hours. After incubation, during which erythrocytes settled, the supernatant was decanted and centrifuged at 1500 μ .m. for 5 minutes. The buffy coats were separated and put in siliconized tubes, 2 to 3 drops of the supernatant plasma were added in order to resuspend the concentrated leukocytes. Leukocyte smears were made, dried rapidly and fixed in Carnoy's fluid. Autoradiographs were made in refrigerator at +2°C in dry air with silica gel as desiccant; the slides were generally exposed for 25 days, developed, washed, and stained with May-Grünwald-Giemsa.

Grain counts were made visually with the aid of a pair of 16 \times oculars and 100 \times oil immersion objective. The percentages of labelled cells and the mean grain counts per cell for each group were obtained by counting H^3 -labelled leukocytes in total of at least 2000 mononuclear cells. Cells with 4 or more grains over the nucleus were considered as labelled.

Results

Peripheral mononuclear blood cells have been grouped morphologically in 7 types, although assigning individual cells to certain types was occasionally difficult, and there seemed to be transition forms.

Type A Large round cells with central nucleus, with nucleolus and a very fine chromatin pattern of the kind usually associated with immaturity" and a narrow basophilic cytoplasm.

Type B Cells of smaller size than the above mentioned elements, with scanty basophilic cytoplasm and with a fine network of chromatin particles, largely mixed with areas of coarse chromatin masses.

Type C Small lymphocytes, without distinct cytoplasm or with a very thin layer and large coarse chromatin masses.

Type D Cells of a size larger than that of the group C, with cytoplasm always evident and chromatin less addensed than in small lymphocytes.

Type E. Large lymphocytes, with abundant cytoplasm and eccentrically located nucleus.

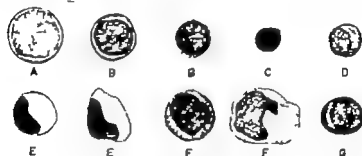


Fig 1 The drawings illustrate schematically the features of the cell types described in the text. Two most frequent aspects are given for the types B, E and F

Type F Cells of the monocytic type, usually with the well known morphological features of the mature cell of this type, occasionally with narrower basophilic cytoplasm and a non lobulated nucleus.

Type G Cells of the plasmocytic type. Many of them showed features of immaturity with a nucleus with a fine chromatin pattern.

The morphological features of the above described types of cells are schematized in fig 1. The percentages of the cells of the various types were different not only from one case to another but also in different slides of the same case. Evidently the method of concentrating leukocytes used does not permit to obtain the peripheral blood cells in a ratio representative of the actual "in vivo"

Table I

Percentage of labelling and mean grain count per cell. The figures indicate the arithmetic mean on eight cases.

Cell Type	Cytidine		Leucine		Cytidine-Leucine ratio
	mean percentage of labelled cells	mean grain count/cell	mean percentage of labelled cells	mean grain count/cell	
A	100	83	100	15	5.5
B	100	65	100	17	3.8
C	91	37	78	12	3.0
D	92	39	91	32	1.2
E	78	42	97	49	0.8
F	100	51	100	63	0.7
G	100	115	100	93	1.2

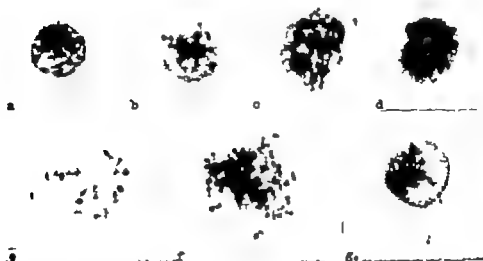


Fig. 4. Labeled cells after *in vivo* incubation of blood with H^3 -cytidine or H^3 -leucine.

Labeled type C cell after incubation with H^3 -cytidine. b) Labeled type C cell after incubation with H^3 -leucine. Labeled type E cell after incubation with H^3 -leucine. d) Labeled type III cell after incubation with H^3 -cytidine. e) Labeled type F cell after incubation with H^3 -cytidine. f) Labeled type F cell after incubation with H^3 -leucine. g) Labeled type B cell after incubation with H^3 -leucine.

ratio, so that the observed values are not reported. The mean percentage of labelling and the mean grain counts per cell are summarized in table I where the cytidine leucine ratio for each type of cell is also reported.

Discussion

DNA labelling is generally thought to occur only when cells synthesize DNA in preparation for mitosis. Since DNA synthesizing

cells in peripheral blood have always been found in a very small number in normal individuals (3) practically all cytidine uptake observed in the present study must be considered as RNA labelling. However some questions arise in the interpretation of the labelling of RNA as well as of proteins after incubation with radioactive nucleosides and aminoacids. In fact, it cannot be automatically accepted as a measurement of nucleic acid and protein synthesis.

Exchange of the uridine-containing nucleotide has been demonstrated *in vitro* in isolated thymus nuclei without synthesis of RNA (1) the terminal cytidyl-adenyl complex of the soluble RNA might also be labelled by exchange (23). All RNA labelling observed in our experiments may not therefore be taken as evidence of synthesis. However many observations suggest that at least most of the RNA labelling with tritiated cytidine may be accepted as an indication of RNA synthesis (16). It must be added that uridine and cytidine give the same radioautographic pattern (22) while adenosine gives a pattern different from that of cytidine in the nucleus of the cells in tissue culture (10). Radioautographs obtained with H^3 -cytidine cannot therefore be taken as representative of all types of RNA.

The aminoacids incorporation, although it can also represent aminoacid activation or exchange, is now generally considered as an indication that a segment of a peptide chain is synthesized (19). CARNEIRO AND LEBLOND (4) and SCHULTZE *et al.* (21) found the same radioautographic pattern of protein synthesis no matter whether leucine, lysine, methionine or glycine were used there is further evidence (12) that protein labelling with l leucine can be regarded as representative of protein synthesis.

Our results clearly show that RNA and protein synthesis take place in a great number of mononuclear peripheral cells. This observation is in agreement with the well known fact that both RNA and proteins are synthesized continuously in the majority of cells (12). As far as peripheral leukocytes are concerned, a positive correlation between RNA synthesis and protein synthesis can by no means be observed in fact, in some types of cells to a high rate of cytidine incorporation corresponds a low rate of aminoacids incorporation.

The chief importance must be attributed to the behaviour of the RNA synthesis/protein synthesis ratio in circulating cells of the

lymphatic types. The variability of the ratio in these cells may obviously depend on the fact that lymphocytes in blood are a heterogeneous population (24) derived from several sources other than thoracic duct lymph, and apparently consisting of a number of cell groups which differ in their potentialities even though they are morphologically very similar. Thus, wide differences in metabolic activity are observed among these peripheral elements. As a matter of fact, in the cells of the group E the protein synthesis appears to be the highest among the cells of the lymphatic types, so that the RNA synthesis/protein synthesis ratio amount roughly to one, resembling that of the monocytes. On the other hand in the cells of the group A, only a very small uptake of H^3 -leucine corresponds to a heavy labelling with H^3 -cytidine, so that the RNA synthesis/protein synthesis ratio is the highest among all the circulating mononuclear cells, amounting roughly to five. Since synthesis of (specific) proteins is one of the chief metabolic features related to cell differentiation, these cells, showing the most marked morphological characteristics of immaturity may be regarded from the metabolic as well as from the morphological point of view as the least differentiated circulating elements.

Furthermore, it must be emphasized that a high RNA synthesis/protein synthesis ratio is found also in the majority of small lymphocytes. As a matter of fact, many cells of this type show a high H^3 -cytidine uptake, a result in disagreement with the view that the small lymphocyte is a final stage like the granulocyte. As can be easily observed in the table I the RNA synthesis/protein synthesis ratio in these cells is quantitatively similar to that of the immature cells of the types A and B. Since we are now aware that small lymphocytes can change rapidly into dividing cells with new morphological and functional characteristics (5-13) and that they have to be considered as immunologically competent cells (9) they cannot be regarded as mature final cells. It seems therefore possible to think that analogous metabolic mechanisms are active in the cells of the types A and C.

The highest rate of protein synthesis was observed in the cells of the plasmocytic type, an observation quite in agreement with the well known strong development in the cytoplasm of these cells, of the ergastoplasm and of the Golgi body (2) two cellular organelles considered to take a main part in the elaboration and excretion of proteins.

Beside the plasmocytes, a high protein synthesis was observed, in lymphocytes of the type E and in monocytes. As far as these cells are concerned, it must be emphasized that the synthetic activity of these elements appears to be quite different from that of the cells of the type A, which we consider as the least differentiated circulating cells. Our observation seems to be in agreement with the view that the monocytes cannot be regarded as pluripotential cell (6).

As far the cytological significance of the dissociation between RNA and protein synthesis some further remarks must be added. It is a well known fact that the nucleus contains several RNA fractions with a very different turnover rate: some of these fractions have a very high turnover rate. Thus a large proportion of nuclear RNA synthesis takes place without a corresponding increase in total RNA content (14). Autoradiographic and chemical studies have shown that the rapid nuclear RNA turnover is mainly due to continuous turnover of nucleolar RNA, which takes place at different rates according to the degree of cell differentiation (20). On the other hand there is no turnover of proteins in the fully grown nucleolus (20) so that the nucleolar synthesis of RNA is much greater than that of proteins (12).

It may therefore be assumed that in resting blood cells, in which a high H^3 -cytidine and a low H^3 -leucine uptake can be observed, the metabolic processes related to the nucleolus and to the associated structures are the main nuclear activity. This hypothesis seems plausible not only for the well nucleolated cells of the group A, but also for the small lymphocytes, in which the electron microscope generally reveals a nucleolus surrounded by chromatin.

Summary

Peripheral leukocytes were incubated with either H^3 -cytidine or H^3 -leucine, and radioautographs were prepared. Mononuclear cells were subdivided into seven groups, according to their morphology and the mean percentage of labelling and the mean grain count for each group was obtained. No direct relationship was observed between H^3 -cytidine and H^3 -leucine uptake. While in some types of cells, such as the monocytes, this ratio amounted roughly to one, in other types of cells, such as the circulating cells of "blastic" type, the ratio was much higher. It is emphasized that in large lymphocytes the cytidine/leucine ratio resembles that observed in monocytes, while in small lymphocytes the ratio is similar to that of the cells of "blastic" type. It is assumed that in resting blood cells with high H^3 -cytidine and low H^3 -leucine uptake, the metabolic processes of the nucleolus and the associated structures represent the main nuclear activity.

Résumé

Les auteurs incubent des leucocytes du sang périphérique soit dans la cytidine- H^3 soit dans la leucine- H^3 puis procèdent à une étude radioautographique. Les cellules mononucléées sont réparties en 7 groupes d'après leur morphologie. Pour chaque groupe, l'intensité de marquage (en pourcent) et le nombre moyen de granulations sont notés. On ne peut trouver une relation directe entre la résorption de la cytidine- H^3 et celle de la leucine- H^3 . Alors que la valeur de cette relation atteint presque un chez quelques formes cellulaires, comme les monocytes, elle reste sensiblement plus élevée chez d'autres types de cellules, comme les cellules d type blastes en circulation. Les auteurs font remarquer que la relation de la cytidine à la leucine des grands lymphocytes ressemble à celle des monocytes, alors que la relation des petits lymphocytes ressemble à celle du type blastes. On peut admettre que le métabolisme du nucléole et la structure correspondante expriment l'activité moyenne du noyau des cellules sanguines en repos avec une résorption forte de cytidine- H^3 et faible de leucine H^3 .

Zusammenfassung

Periphere Leukozyten wurden entweder mit H^3 -Cytidin oder mit H^3 -Leucin inkubiert und radioautographisch untersucht. Die mononukleären Zellen wurden auf Grund ihrer Morphologie in 7 Gruppen eingeteilt. Für jede Gruppe wurden die prozentuale Markierung und der mittlere Gehalt an Granula bestimmt. Es fand sich keine direkte Beziehung zwischen den Aufnahmen von H^3 -Cytidin und von H^3 -Leucin. Während dieses Verhältnis bei einigen Zellformen, wie den Monozyten, nahezu eins betrug, war es bei anderen Zelltypen, wie den zirkulierenden Zellen vom «Blasten»-Typ, wesentlich höher. Es wird darauf hingewiesen, daß bei den großen Lymphozyten das Verhältnis von Cytidin zu Leucin demjenigen der Monozyten gleicht, während es bei den kleinen Lymphozyten ähnlich ist wie in den Zellen vom «Blasten»-Typ. Es wird angenommen, daß in ruhenden Blutzellen mit hoher H^3 -Cytidin- und niedriger H^3 -Leucin-Aufnahme die Stoffwechselprozesse des Nucleolus und der damit verbundenen Strukturen die mittlere Kern-Aktivität wiedergeben.

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Table II

The effect of radiotherapy upon the consumption test.

Diagnosis	Area of treatment	Field size	Tumor dose rad	Consumption test before/after treatment				W.B.C. before/after treatment
				Thrombo- cytes		Leucocytes		
Carcinoma of maxillary sinus	Max. sinus	8x8 ant. + lat.	5000	♂	3	♂	♂	6750/585
Hodgkin's disease	Skull	10x10 4 fields	2500	♂	2	♂	♂	7000/620
Malignant melanoma	Skull	10x10 4 fields	5000	2	2	1	1	8000/800
Lymphoepithelioma of nasopharynx	Mastoid	10x10	2000	4	4	♂	3	4000/400
Lymphosarcoma	Supraclavicular	10x10	2000	♂	4	3	3	6500/600
Carcinoma of thyroid	Cervical + supraclavicular	10x17 2 fields	5000	♂	4	♂	1	7000/620
Hodgkin disease	Cervical	10x15 2 fields	2000	2	4	2	2	9900/830
Hodgkin disease	Mediastinum	10x15 2 fields	2000	4	4	3	4	5900/610
Hodgkin's disease	Thorax-stnnt.	10x15 2 fields	2000	1	♂	3	♂	8100/580
Bronchial carcinoma	Thorax-dent.	10x15 3 fields	3000	♂	3	♂	♂	7000/430
Bronchial carcinoma	Thorax-stnnt.	18x16 2 fields	3000	4	♂	3	♂	11100/105
Esophageal carcinoma	Lower esophagus	10x17 2 fields	4000	2	4	♂	3	7800/580
Carcinoma of stomach	Upper abdomen	15x15 4 fields	2500	3	♂	♂	♂	4200/2000
Carcinoma of sigmoid	Lower abdomen	20x20 4 fields	3000	♂	4	♂	2	5500/430
Carcinoma of ovary	Upper abdomen	10x20 2 fields	2000	♂	♂	♂	♂	7850/450
Carcinoma of ovary	Upper abdomen	20x20 4 fields	3000	1	1	♂	♂	6800/380
Carcinoma of ovary	Lower abdomen	10x20 4 fields	2500	4	4	2	3	8000/420
Carcinoma of breast	Liver	10x15 2 fields	1000	4	3	♂	♂	7900/500
Hodgkin disease	Upper abdomen	10x15 2 fields	2000	4	4	4	4	11000/560
Lymphosarcoma	Upper abdomen	20x20	800	3	1	♂	♂	4000/2000
Lymphosarcoma	All peripheral lymph nodes	10x10 8 fields	2000 each field	4	2	4	2	7000/680
Chronic myeloid leukemia	Spleen	10x15	850r*	♂	4	♂	4	23000/130
Chronic myeloid leukemia	Spleen	10x15	1050r*	♂	4	♂	4	21000/130
Chronic myeloid leukemia	Spleen	10x15	1125r*	3	4	2	♂	20000/720
Chronic myeloid leukemia	Spleen	10x15	800r*	2	3	♂	4	100000/480
Chronic myeloid leukemia	Spleen	10x15	900r*	♂	1	♂	±	102800/270
Lymphosarcoma	Spleen	10x15	250r*	♂	3	♂	1	5800/300
Chronic lymphatic leukemia	Spleen	10x15	1450r*	♂	♂	♂	♂	190000/500

Table III

Changes in the consumption test after the end of treatment.

Diagnosis	Consumption test at end of treatment		Time since end of treatment	Follow up consumption test	
	Thrombocytes	Leucocytes		Thrombocytes	Leucocytes
Chronic myeloid leukemia	4	4	3 weeks	4	1
			4 months	1	1
Chronic myeloid leukemia	4	#	3 weeks	2	#
			1 week	1	0
Chronic myeloid leukemia	4	4	9 months	2	0
Chronic myeloid leukemia	3	4	4 months	3	2
Hodgkin disease	4	2	3 weeks	2	2
Hodgkin disease	4	4	9 months	1	
Lymphosarcoma	4	3	9 months	1	1
Lymphosarcoma	3	#	3 weeks	#	0
Lymphosarcoma	2	2	3 months	1	1
Reticulum cell sarcoma	4		3 weeks	3	
Polycythemia		2	3 weeks	#	#
Carcinoma of breast	4	2	10 days	2	0
Carcinoma of breast	3	4	3 weeks	2	
Carcinoma of breast	4	3	4 months	4	2

test showed no change or its degree of positivity became reduced. Eight of these received radiotherapy to the upper abdomen and left hemithorax. In no patient who received treatment to these areas did the consumption test become stronger a phenomenon we find difficult to explain. Animal experiments are being undertaken to try and throw light on this problem. Of the three other patients in whom no positivity occurred one with malignant melanoma received radiotherapy to the skull, an area which, when irradiated nearly always produces very slight or no hematological changes. The patient with lymphatic leukemia received irradiation to the spleen. In this case, the number of lymphocytes was reduced, which did not occur with the other patients in whom granulocytes were mostly affected. This may account for the lack of change in the test. The patient with lymphosarcoma had enlargement of all the peripheral lymph nodes, and it is possible that this accounted for the strong positive test before treatment. After successful treatment the test became less positive, and the remaining positivity might be due to the X ray treatment and not to the disease. The area of treatment, size of field and the dose, seem to have an influence upon the result of the test.

The DACT is a more sensitive test than the usual tests for the detection of antibodies in the serum and thus accounts for the high percentage of positive results. Whether the coating globulin causing the positive test is an antibody or a globulin attached to a damaged cell is not yet settled (3). The finding of positive or more strongly positive DACT after radiological or chemotherapeutical treatment supports the second possibility. The positive test in a patient who has not had any previous treatment may be due to some globulins produced by the tumour itself. The mere coating of the cells with globulin may interfere with cell metabolism and shorten its life.

Summary

Interference in white blood cell and thrombocytes metabolism was found in some of the patients with malignant disease who had not been treated previously. These changes were similar to those observed after radiotherapy and chemotherapy but in lesser degree. The direct antiglobulin consumption test (DACT) became positive or more positive if it was already so, in all patients getting chemotherapy. Local radiotherapy compared to chemotherapy produced similar but less marked changes in the test. The DACT was repeated after intervals without further treatment and the degree of positivity decreased, or the test became negative.

Résumé

Les auteurs démontrent la présence de troubles métaboliques de leucocytes et des thrombocytes chez des malades atteints de tumeurs malignes, qui ont pas été traités auparavant. Les modifications du métabolisme ressemblent à celles observées après radio- ou chimiothérapie, sans en montrer l'ampleur. Le test direct de consommation de l'antiglobuline (DACT) était positif chez tous les malades soumis à la chimiothérapie, ou, "il était déjà positif avant le traitement, devenait plus fortement positif. En comparaison avec la chimiothérapie les mêmes modifications du test survaient une radiothérapie locale, mais elles étaient moins fortes après une interruption du traitement. Le DACT devenait alors plus faible ou négatif.

Zusammenfassung

Bei einigen zuvor nicht behandelten Patienten mit malignen Tumoren wurden Stoffwechselstörungen von Leukozyten und Thrombozyten nachgewiesen. Diese Veränderungen waren ähnlich, aber weniger ausgesprochen wie diejenigen nach Radiotherapie und Chemotherapie. Der direkte Antiglobulin-Consumptionstest (DACT) war bei allen einer Chemotherapie unterworfenen Patienten positiv oder wenn er schon vorher positiv war wurde er stärker positiv. Im Vergleich zur Chemotherapie führte eine lokale Radiotherapie zu ähnlichen, aber weniger ausgesprochenen Veränderungen des Testes. Der DACT wurde nach einem behandlungsfreien Intervall schwächer oder negativ.

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The Significance of the "Protein Error" of Indicators in the Diagnosis of Bence-Jones Proteinuria

By J. K. SMITH

Since the studies of NIETZKI AND BURCKHARDT (15) and SORENSEN (19) a phenomenon known as the "protein error" of indicators has been known to occur with certain pH indicators in the presence of protein. It consists of a displacement in the transformation range of the indicator which is independent of changes in the pH and has been ascribed to the formation of a salt like adsorption compound between the protein and the indicator (15). The color shift may be towards the alkaline or the acid side. The reaction is not entirely specific for native proteins, since some colorimetric discrepancy has been noted to occur in solutions containing high concentrations of products of proteolysis (4) and since a significant transformation may occur in the presence of neutral salts (generally alkaloids of high molecular weight) (4, 5).

The present investigation was prompted by the observation that large quantities of *Bence-Jones* proteins frequently failed to induce any significant alteration in the transformation range of a citrate buffered (pH 3.5) tetrabromophenolsulphonphthalein impregnated filter paper strip* although significantly positive results were obtained when the urines were tested with several other laboratory procedures used routinely in the detection of proteinuria.

A comparison is made between the relative abilities of four frequently used laboratory methods to detect the presence of M components ("abnormal" globulins) in urines from 19 patients with multiple myeloma or macroglobulinaemia. Discrepancies between the behavior of the colorimetric filter strip in the presence of albumin

Table I

Initial	Diagnosis	Albumin	Urobilinogen	Urobilin	Urobilinogen	Urobilinogen	Urobilinogen	Urobilinogen
V. A.	Myeloma	0	2 4	4	4	+	2.94	γ_1
R. W.	Myeloma	30-100 mg	4	4	4	+	1.41	γ
E. H.	Myeloma, paraneoplastic	0	4	4	4	+	1.03	γ_1
M. G. O.	Myeloma	0	4	3	2	+	0.890	α_2
A. A.	Myeloma	30 mg	3	1	1	+	0.688	γ_1
T. J.	Myeloma	30 mg	3	3	3	+	0.441	γ
Ado.	Myeloma	0	2	3	3	+	0.264	γ_2
K. O.	Myeloma	30 mg	3	2	3	+	0.340	β mod. albumin
G. R.	Myeloma	30 mg	1	2	0	0	0.190	γ trace albumin
L. J.	Myeloma	30 mg	1	1	1	0	0.132	β trace albumin
E. B.	Macroglob.	0	2	1	2	0	0.104	β
M. G.	Myeloma	0	1	tr	1	0	0.092	γ_1 trace albumin
L. L.	Myeloma	30 mg	1+	2	2	0	0.084	β mod. albumin
M. O.	Macroglob.	0	tr	tr	tr	0	0.082	γ γ_2 trace albumin
K. N.	Myeloma	30 mg	1	2	1	0	0.068	γ_1 (β) mod. albumin
San.	Myeloma	0	tr	0	0	0	0.044	α_2 trace albumin
B. C.	Myeloma	0	tr	0	0	0	0.038	α_2 trace albumin
G. M.	Myeloma	0	tr	0	0	0	0.033	β γ_1 trace albumin
F. F.	Myeloma	0	tr	tr	0	0	0.024	α_2 trace albumin

Same results at pH 5.0 and pH 8.0.

** Criteria for positive reactions: trace = less than 2 mm precipitate, 1 = 2-3 mm, 2 = 4-5 mm, 3 = 6 mm, 4 = more than 6 mm.

Criteria for positive reactions: trace = faint turbidity, 1 = definite turbidity no granulation, 2 = granulation, no flocculation, 3 = marked flocculation, 4 = precipitation.

† Because of the 1:1 dilution of the urines with the phosphate buffer in this test, the protein concentrations are one half the values listed under Bluret.

and in the presence of gamma globulin and 12 isolated urinary V components are noted, and the theoretical significance briefly discussed. The combined findings of a negative or trace positive colorimetric strip test and a strongly or moderately positive *Heller's* test, *Purdy's* heat test, or sulfosalicylic acid test are shown to strongly favor the diagnosis of gamma related proteins in the urine*.

Materials and Methods

Urine collection. Freshly voided urine samples from patients with multiple myeloma or macroglobulinemia were filtered and tested immediately. Urine samples not being used were acidified and stored in polyethylene containers at 4°C. Toluene was not used as preservative since this may result in false negative reactions with the colorimetric strip test due to the development of water repellence by the filter paper (7).

Gamma-related globulins include the 7S and 19S gamma globulins, myeloma serum globulins, pathological macroglobulins, and Bence-Jones proteins (20).

Routine studies: Each urine sample was tested with Albusix at the original pH, and at pH 5.0 and 8.0 following adjustment with HCl or NaOH, respectively. The strips were read in double blind study; the mechanics of the testing being similar to those recommended by FRAZER (7). Results were recorded in terms of 0, 50, 100, 300 or 1000+ mg. of protein using the color scale provided with the indicator strips. pH determinations were performed with a Beckman glass electrode meter (Model H 2) with an accuracy of ± 0.1 units.

Other routine studies for proteinuria included the sulfosalicylic acid test (10), *Pandy's* heat test (21) and *Heller's* test (10). The criteria for positive reactions in these tests are listed in table I.

2.0 ml urine samples were buffered with 2.0 ml of 0.01 molar Na_2HPO_4 - 0.07 molar NaH_2PO_4 solution of pH 6.0, ionic strength 0.1 and tested for the presence of *Bence-Jones* proteins by heating slowly to 60 °C. Proteins which precipitated between 45 and 60 °C, partly or completely redissolved when heated to 100 °C, and reprecipitated when cooled to room temperature, were considered to be *Bence-Jones* proteins.

Total protein was determined by the Biuret method (8) following the precipitation of 5 ml urine samples with 10% trichloroacetic acid as suggested by FORSMAN et al. (6). Supernatants were also checked for protein content since trichloroacetic acid may fail to precipitate some of the lower molecular weight proteins. Any remaining fractions were precipitated with 60% sodium sulfate and included in the protein determination.

Electrophoresis: Urine samples were concentrated to protein content of 0.5 gm/100 ml or more by dialysis against 15% aqueous carboxymethylcellulose at 4 °C. 0.2 ml samples were then subjected to paper electrophoresis for 16 hours at 140 volts using diethyl barbiturate buffer of pH 8.6, 0.1 ionic strength.

Separation of M-components: 12 urinary concentrates were dialyzed for 8 hours against two changes of the aforementioned phosphate buffer and precipitated by the addition of solid ammonium sulfate to 60% saturation at 22 °C. The precipitates were dissolved in 0.9% NaCl and dialyzed for 12 hours against three changes of distilled water at 4 °C to assure the complete removal of ammonium sulfate. The proteins (many of which were water insoluble) were subsequently equilibrated by dialysis with the phosphate buffer and adjusted to protein concentrations of 16 to 1000 mg/100 ml. Electrophoretic analyses were repeated, and the proteins found to be free of albumin contaminants. The protein solutions were then retested with Albusix.

Albumin and gamma globulin: Similar concentrations of phosphate buffered purified human serum albumin and purified serum gamma globulin (Kabi, Stockholm, Sweden) were prepared and tested with the indicator strips. Immunoelectrophoresis of the latter protein, using the method of SCHMIDTSON (17) as modified by HEDGECOCK (11) with anti-human antisera (Behring-Works) as the antibody source, revealed it to be a homogeneous gamma globulin with minor α_2 macroglobulin contaminant, and mobility on paper electrophoresis of γ_{gamma_1} , γ_{gamma_2} , and γ_{gamma_3} . Analysis of the albumin by the supplier revealed minor contaminating fractions of transferrin (0.8%) and alpha globulin (1.0%).

Results

Urinary protein concentrations as determined by the Biuret method varied from 24 to 2,940 mg/100 ml in the presenting unconcentrated samples. The mobilities of the M-components on paper electrophoresis ranged from α_2 to γ_{gamma_3} , with a predominance in the γ_{gamma_1} range. Of the 19 urines studied, 3 (15.8%) (M. O., K. N., and G. M.) had more than one M-com

ponent, and 11 (57.9 %) had detectable amounts of albumin on paper electrophoresis, although in every instance the M-component predominated. The heat flocculation test for the detection of *Bence-Jones* proteins was positive in 8 of 19 urines (42.1 %) and was negative in all samples diluted with buffer to concentrations of 95 mg/100 ml of protein or less regardless of the mobility of the components* (table I)

Detection of urinary M-components by routine laboratory procedures

All of the 19 unconcentrated urine samples reacted positively with *Heller's* nitric acid test. The quantitative correlation with this method was not always reliable, however as may be seen in table I

The sulfosalicylic acid test was positive in 16 of the 19 urines (84.2 %) and was negative only in those samples containing less than 50 mg/100 ml of protein. The method, with certain exceptions (urines from A. A. L. L., and K. N.) gave a fairly reliable quantitative correlation.

Purdy's heat test was positive in 14 of the 19 urines (73.7%) and was also negative in urine samples containing less than 50 mg/100 ml of protein. One urine sample (G. R.) containing 190 mg/100 ml of protein, however did fail to precipitate upon heating to 100 C. The quantitative correlation was similar to that obtained with the sulfosalicylic acid test.

The citrate-buffered tetrabromophenolsulfonphthalein impregnated filter strip test for proteinuria was minimally positive in 8 of 19 urines (42.1 %) of which all but three contained detectable amounts of albumin on electrophoresis. In only one instance (B. W.) was the reaction of the colorimetric test read as being greater than 80 mg (i. e. 30-100 mg) despite the fact that the urinary protein concentrations ranged as high as 1410 mg/100 ml, and were above 130 mg/100 ml in 6 of the 8 reacting samples (table I). Both of the urines reacting with less than 100 mg/100 ml of protein (L. L. and K. N.) had moderate to heavy albumin components.

Eleven urines failed to induce any change in the colorimetric strip of these, 7 (63.6%) had protein concentrations of greater than 80 mg/100 ml, and 4 (36.4 %) had protein concentrations greater than 250 mg/100 ml. The most striking examples of the failure of some components to induce any transformation in the in

In separate study it was noted that the precipitate resulting from the heating of known Bence-Jones proteins in concentrations of less than 50-60 mg/100 ml was generally so minimal as to be readily overlooked without spectrophotometric aids.

Table II

Reaction of albutix to phosphate buffered albumin, γ -globulin, and 12 isolated urinary M-components.

Patient	Mobility of M-Component	Concentration of Protein in g/100 ml					
		1.0	0.5	0.25	0.125	0.063	0.032
Mg. O.	α_2	0	0	0	0	0	0
K. O.	β	100	30-100	30+	30-	0	0
L. L.	β	-	100	100-	30-100	30+	30-
B. C.	β	30	30-	0	0	0	0
K. N.	$\gamma_1(\beta)$	30+	30	30-	0	0	0
V. A.	γ_1	0	0	0	0	0	0
E. H.	γ	0	0	0	0	0	0
A. A.	γ_1	30	30-	0	0	0	0
T. J.	γ_1	100	30+	30	30-	0	0
M. O.	$\gamma(\gamma_1)$	-	30+	30	30-	0	0
Ado.	γ	30+	30-	0	0	0	0
B. W.	γ	30-	0	0	0	0	0
	Albumin	1000+	300+	100+	100	30-100	30
	γ -Globulin	30+	30	30-	0	0	0

indicator strip were the urines from V. A. and E. H. in which the protein concentrations were 2940 and 1030 mg/100 ml, respectively. Both of these components were of gamma₁ mobility. No statistically significant correlation could be found between the mobilities of the components on paper electrophoresis and their abilities to affect the dissociation of the tetrabromophenolsulfonphthalein impregnated filter strip, however.

Comparison of the behavior of tetrabromophenolsulfonphthalein in the presence of albumin, gamma globulin, and isolated M-components. The responses of the indicator strips to purified human serum albumin and gamma globulin and to 12 phosphate buffered, ammonium sulfate fractionated M-components of concentrations ranging from 16 to 1000 mg/100 ml are listed in table II. Although the M-components varied in their abilities to affect the dissociation of tetrabromophenolsulfonphthalein, their behavior in general was similar to that of purified gamma globulin. In no instance did they result in an alkaline shift of the indicator equal to that caused by an identical concentration of albumin. Five of the components (41.7%) failed to induce any change below concentrations of 250 mg/100 ml. of protein, and three (25%) had no demonstrable effect on the indicator dissociation. Only one of the 12 components (8.3%) could be expected to induce a colorimetric response in concentrations below 125 mg/100 ml. Again no correlation could be drawn between the mobilities of the components on paper electrophoresis and

their abilities to affect the dissociation of the indicator in concentrations and pH conditions present in the filter strip. All but one (K.N) of the isolated components demonstrated heat-solubility characteristics typical of *Bence-Jones* proteins when present in a phosphate buffer pH 6.0 in concentrations of 250 mg/100 ml.

Discussion

The diagnosis of *Bence-Jones* proteinuria has been a perplexing problem for the physician since the original description of one member of this heterogeneous group of proteins by Bence Jones in 1848 (2). Although electrophoretic analysis of concentrated urine samples in all patients with proteinuria undoubtedly offers the most reliable means of detecting gamma related globulins in the urine, the method is impractical as a routine screening procedure. In addition, the final diagnosis of *Bence-Jones* proteinuria has traditionally depended on the demonstration of heat-solubility characteristics typical of these proteins, although, more recently methods such as ultracentrifugation and the immuno-diffusion techniques have added greatly to the diagnostic armament.

The present study confirms the reliability of the sulfosalicylic acid test and *Pandy's* heat test to detect the presence of urinary M components in concentrations greater than 50 mg/100 ml although, of course, these methods are nonspecific, and yield no information as to the nature of the proteins precipitated. In addition, *Heller's* nitric acid test was found to detect the presence of these proteins in all of the 19 samples, and in concentrations as low as 24 mg/100 ml, a factor which favors its use as a screening procedure for proteinuria. Heat-solubility characteristics typical of *Bence-Jones* proteins were noted in only 42 1/2 % of the urines, a finding in keeping with the previously recorded experiences in the literature.

The marked discrepancies between the behavior of tetrabromophenolsulfonphthalein in the presence of albumin and in the presence of gamma globulin and 12 isolated urinary M-components are of both practical and theoretical significance. Although the value of the colorimetric strip test in the diagnosis of albuminuria has been established by numerous investigators (1 3 7 14) and confirmed in this investigation, it appears unlikely that a significant number of gamma-related urinary components will be detectable by this method in concentrations below 125 to 250 mg/100 ml.

even then, the colorimetric response may be much less than one would expect with equivalent amounts of albumin, or it may be absent altogether. It is suggested, therefore, that the combined findings of negative or trace positive colorimetric strip test and a strongly or moderately positive *Heller's* test, *Purdy's* heat test, or sulfosalicylic acid test may be considered to strongly favor the presence of gamma related proteins in the urine. Because of the not uncommon occurrence of albumin in urines with *Bence Jones* proteins (18) however a strongly positive colorimetric reaction does not rule out the presence of gamma related components in the urine.

The physicochemical significance of the variation in the abilities of albumin, gamma globulin and *Bence-Jones* proteins to affect the dissociation of tetrabromophenolsulfonphthalein is presently under investigation. Preliminary results in this laboratory suggest that the reaction (at pH's below the isoelectric point of the protein being tested) is due to binding of the anionic sulfonic acid group of the indicator to cationic sites on the proteins, of which the free amino acid groups appear to be most important. These findings are in keeping with the published work of JENKS et al. (12) in which they studied the abilities of electrophoretically separated protein fractions to bind tetrabromophenolsulfonphthalein and found that the binding capacities of human serum albumin and bovine albumin were considerably greater than those of the alpha, beta and gamma globulins, and that this binding could be decreased 58% by deamination with nitrous acid. In addition, these authors noted a positive correlation between the dye combining capacities and the number of free amino groups in serum albumin, bovine serum albumin, and gamma globulin. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated by GRASMAN AND HANCO (9) that the basic protein clupein has a greater dye uptake than albumin, whereas the acidic protein accounts for little dye uptake.

A study of 14 purified *Bence-Jones* proteins by PUTNAM AND MIYAKE is of particular interest (16). These investigators demonstrated that of eight proteins immunologically classified as belonging to antigenic type A of KORNGOLD (13) five lacked detectable N terminal amino acids, and all eight lacked N-terminal aspartic acid. Conversely those proteins that were immunologically classified as belonging to *Korngold's* antigenic type B all contained N terminal aspartic acid, and had a greater overall abundance of N-terminal amino acids.

Although N terminal amino acid analyses and immunological classifications were not done in the present study it is suggested that the relative inability of the gamma related proteins to affect the dissociation of tetrabromophenolsulfonphthalein may be related to a deficiency in N terminal amino acids. It is also possible that those *Bence-Jones* proteins which failed completely to react with the indicator may be of antigenic type A.

Acknowledgment: The author is grateful to J. V. WELCHMAN of the Ames Company for supplying useful information regarding their product.

Summary

A comparison is made between the relative abilities of four frequently used laboratory methods to detect the presence of abnormal globulins in the urines of 19 patients with multiple myeloma or macroglobulinemia. Discrepancies between the abilities of albumin, gamma globulin and 12 urinary M-components to displace the transformation range of an indicator strip test for proteinuria are noted, and the theoretical significance discussed. The combined findings of negative or trace positive colorimetric strip test and strongly or moderately positive Heller test, Purdy test, or sulfosalicylic acid test are shown to strongly favor the presence of gamma-related proteins in the urine.

Résumé

L'auteur compare 4 méthodes de laboratoire courantes pour la recherche de globulines «anormales» dans l'urine de 19 malades atteints d'un plasmocytome ou d'une macroglobulinémie. On note des différences de la réaction de l'albumine, de la gammaglobuline et de 12 composés M de l'urine à l'aide d'un tampon indicateur servant à la recherche de la protéinurie. La signification théorique de ces différences est discutée. La présence simultanée d'une réaction négative ou légèrement positive des tampons colorimétriques et forte ou modérément positive de la réaction de Heller du test de chaleur de Purdy et de la réaction avec l'acide sulfosalicylique est un signe en faveur de la présence de protéines urinaires du groupe des gamma-protéines.

Zusammenfassung

Es wurden vier häufig verwendete Laboratoriumsmethoden zum Nachweis abnormer Globuline im Urin von 19 Patienten mit Plasmocytom oder Makroglobulinämie verglichen. Es ergaben sich Unterschiede zwischen Albumin, Gamma-Globulin und 12 M-Komponenten des Urins in der Beeinflussung eines Indikatorstreifens zum Nachweis der Proteinurie. Daran theoretische Bedeutung wird diskutiert. Die Kombination eines negativen oder nur leicht positiven Tests mit Kolorimeter-Streifen und eines stark oder mäßig positiven Ausfalles der Hellschen Probe, des Purdy'schen Hitze-Tests oder der Sulfosalicylsäure-Probe spricht für das Vorliegen von Proteinen aus dem Gamma-Bereich im Urin.

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Über die Bindung löslicher Antigen-Antikörper Komplexe an Erythrocyten

VON F. GRAMLICH UND H. E. MÖLLER

Wie Untersuchungen von SORKIN (1) und WEIGLE (2) zeigten, sind zelluläre Blutbestandteile an der Eliminierung von Antigen-Antikörper Komplexen aus dem Blutkreislauf wesentlich beteiligt. Für Leukozyten und Thrombozyten wurde in diesem Zusammenhang nachgewiesen, daß sie lösliche, im Blutplasma entstandene Antigen-Antikörper Produkte entweder phagozytieren oder an ihrer Oberfläche adsorbieren und dabei Schädigungen erfahren, die zur Zellzerstörung Anlaß geben (3-4).

Die vorliegende Arbeit soll einen Beitrag zu der Frage liefern, welche Rolle die Erythrocyten bei der Eliminierung von löslichen Antigen-Antikörper Komplexen zu spielen vermögen. Dabei lag die von DUSBERG (5) geäußerte Vorstellung zugrunde, daß den Erythrocyten auf Grund des multivalenten Bindungsvermögens ihrer großen Gesamtoberfläche und damit ihrer möglichen Adsorptionsfähigkeit eine Reinigungsfunktion im strömenden Blut zukommt. Wie in früheren Arbeiten gezeigt werden konnte, ist die Adsorption an die Erythrocytenoberfläche ein durchaus spezifischer Vorgang, was an körperfremden, makromolekularen Substanzen wie etwa Bakterien-Lipopolysacchariden (6) oder Myxoviren (7) ebenso gezeigt werden konnte wie an körpereigenen, homologen Plasma-proteinen (8, 9, 10, 11).

Im Folgenden wurde mit einer Technik, die schon bei der Untersuchung des normalen Plasmaproteinfilmes an der Oberfläche menschlicher Erythrocyten zur Anwendung gelangte (9) geprüft, in welchem Ausmaß eine Adsorption von löslichen Antigen-Antikörper Komplexen an die Oberfläche von Kaninchen-Erythro-

zyten erfolgt. Diese kolloidalen Immunkomplexe wurden stets im Antigen-Überschuß hergestellt. Als Modellsystem diente Human-Albumin und Kaninchen-Antikörper. Dabei war in den Versuchsansätzen einmal das Antigen zum andern der Antikörper mit ^{125}I Jod markiert. Als Vergleich dienten die Adsorptionsquoten der Einzelbestandteile des Immunkomplexes (^{125}I Jod-markiertes Human-Albumin und ^{125}I Jod-markiertes Kaninchen-gamma-Globulin).

MATERIAL

1. ^{125}I Jod-markierter Kaninchen-Antikörper gegen Human-Albumin wurde nach folgender Methode hergestellt: Kaninchen wurden mit Freund's Adjuvans gegen Human-Albumin (Behring-Werke, Marburg) sensibilisiert. Blut und antikörperhaltiges Serum wurde durch Hitzpunktion gewonnen. In 1/75 m Ammoniumsulfat-Lösung wurde das Kaninchen-gamma-Globulin gefällt, in Sörensen-Phosphatpuffer pH 8,0 gelöst und nach einer leicht modifizierten Methode von FREEMAN und STROMBERG (12) mit ^{125}I Jod (Radiochemical Centre, Amersham) markiert. Aus der so behandelten Lösung wurde im Äquivalenzpunkt der nephelometrischen Heidelberger Kurve, der durch die Trübungswachstum ausgerechnet ist (13, 14) mit der berechneten Albumin-Menge ein spezifisches Albumin-Antikörper-Präzipitat ausgefällt, wiederholt mit physiologischer NaCl-Lösung ausgewaschen, um freie Jod-Anteile weitgehend zu entfernen, in 0,01 N HCl aufgelöst und auf einer Säule mit Sephadex G 100 (Säulenhöhe 65 cm) in Albumin und Antikörper aufgetrennt (15, 16). In den ersten Fraktionen reichert sich das Antikörper Protein an, das in Lösung rein vorliegt, nachdem sich das stets in geringen Mengen vorhandene Albumin nach Neutralisieren mit Antikörper-komplex-Präzipitation niederschlagen hat. Aus den letzten Fraktionen konnte nach Neutralisieren ein kolloidaler Antigen-Antikörper-Komplex gewonnen werden, dessen gamma-Globulin-Antikörper-Gehalt aus den gemessenen Impulszahlen der Aktivitätsmessung ermittelt wurde. Methodisch bedingt erhält man zusammen mit einem derartigen Antigen-Antikörper-Komplex stets überschüssiges Albumin. Rein formal wurde bei der sicher anzunehmenden 2 Wertigkeit des Antikörper Moleküls (17) pro Molekül gamma-Globulin zwei Moleküle Albumin angesetzt, so daß der kolloidale Antigen-Antikörper-Komplex aus 1 Molekül Antikörper und 2 Molekülen Antigen dargestellt wird.

2. Unmarkiertes Human-Albumin erhielt wurde von den Behringwerken, Marburg, erhalten.

3. ^{125}I Jod-markiertes Human-Albumin stammte von Radiochemical Centre, Amersham; es wurde zur Entfernung des freien Jods vor Verwendung 24 Stunden bei 4°C gegen physiologische NaCl-Lösung dialysiert.

4. Die Herstellung von kolloidalem Antigen-Antikörper-Komplex geschah durch Zusatz der nach einer Heidelberger-Kurve errechneten Menge antikörperhaltigen Kaninchen-Serums zu dem ^{125}I Jod-markierten Human-Albumin. Auch hierbei muß mit freiem Albumin, das nicht im Antigen-Antikörper-Komplex gebunden ist, gerechnet werden.

Methode

1. 3 ml so hergestellter Antigen-Antikörper-Komplexlösungen mit bekanntem Gehalt an Immunkomplexen (Tab. I Spalte 4) bei denen einmal der Antikörper und zum andern das Antigen mit ^{125}I Jod markiert waren und außerdem von reinem ^{125}I Jod-markiertem Antikörperlösungen ohne Albumin und von Albuminlösungen ohne Antikörper wurden mit 2 ml einer Erythrozytensuspension vom Kaninchen 2 Stunden

Tabelle I

Die spezifische Oberflächenaktivität eines Immunkomplexes im Vergleich zu seinen Einzelbestandteilen.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Nr	Protein	Gleichgewichts- menge	Absolut- menge an Pro- tein	Zahl der Erythro- cyten	Protein an der Ery-Ober- fläche	Moleküle an Ery	Anre- iche- rungs- faktor
		% Po	mg Og	$\cdot 10^{10}$ Zg	μmole OZg	M_{ZS}	f
1	^{125}I -Jod-	0,0749	30	2,0	22,47	9687	
2	Human-	0,0600	30	2,0	24,00	10320	
3	Albumin	0,0684	30	1,5	26,52	15153	
Mittelwert						11780	
4	^{125}I -Jod-	0,2230	30	1,5	66,90	38277	3,25
5	Human-	0,3426	30	1,5	102,78	58728	4,99
	Albumin						
6	Kaninchen-	0,2730	30	2,0	81,90	35234	2,99
7	Antikörper	0,5733	30	1,5	173,26	99001	8,40
8	Komplex	0,6314	30	1,5	189,42	108294	9,19
9	^{125}I -Jod-	1,746	16,8	0,9	284,85	121395	
	Kaninchen-						
	gamma-						
	Globulin-						
	Antikörper						
10	Human-	4,406	147,8	0,9	1338,24	1472605	12,13
11	Albumin-	2,808	147,8	0,9	2400,99	938,405	7,43
	^{125}I -Jod-Kaninchen-						
	Antikörper						
	Komplex						

bei Raumtemperatur inkubiert und dann mit einer Säure-Phosphatpufferlösung, pH 7,2, die im Verhältnis 1:1 mit physiologischer NaCl-Lösung versetzt war, nach folgender Methode ausgewaschen. Die 5 ml Gesamtlösung wurden mit 5 ml Pufferlösung vermischt, 5 min bei 1200 g zentrifugiert und vom Überstand jeweils wieder 5 ml abpipettiert. Dieser Waschvorgang wurde 10 mal wiederholt. Die Strahlungsaktivitäten in den einzelnen Waschüberständen und in dem Erythrocytensediment wurden gemessen. Dazu diente ein Szintillationszähler mit Bohrstückkristall der Firma Frisch & Höpfer Erlangen.

Ergebnis

Als Gleichgewichtsmenge P_0 (Tab. I Spalte 3) in / der Ausgangsmenge des betreffenden Proteins wurden die Aktivitäten und damit bei bekannter Relation zwischen Aktivität und Proteingehalt auch die Absolute Menge an Proteinen bezeichnet, die sich dann ergeben, wenn im Überstand und am Erythrocytensediment (das stets auch noch einen Teil Überstand enthält) gleiche Impulzzahlen

erreicht waren. Daraus konnte entsprechend dem Schema einer vorhergegangenen Arbeit (9) die Zahl der Moleküle, bzw. der Immunkomplexe pro Erythrozyt (MEE Tab. I Spalte 7) aus der Zahl der Erythrozyten im Ansatz (ZE Tab. I Spalte 5) unter Kenntnis der eingesetzten Gesamtproteinmenge (GB Tab. I Spalte 4) errechnet werden. Der Anreicherungsfaktor F ergibt sich als Quotient aus der Zahl der Einzelmoleküle Human Albumin oder Kaninchen-gamma Globulin und der entsprechenden Zahl der Immunkomplexe, die an die Erythrozytenoberfläche unter gleichen Bedingungen adsorbiert werden. Wie aus Tab. I hervorgeht, wurden relativ stark differierende MEE Zahlen zwischen den Proben Nr 1-3 und 9 bzw. 4-8 und 10-11 gefunden. Das muß in der methodisch bedingten Tatsache gesehen werden, daß bei den Untersuchungen in Nr 1-8 ^{125}I markiertes Human Albumin vom Radiochemical Centre, Amersham, Verwendung fand dagegen in den Proben 9-11 Human Albumin der Behringwerke, Marburg. Es zeigten sich bei dem ^{125}I markierten Human Albumin aus Amersham beträchtliche Denaturierungserscheinungen, die bei dem entsprechenden Behringwerk Albumin nicht in so starkem Ausmaß gefunden werden konnten. Wie Kontrolluntersuchungen zeigten, ist die Adsorption von Proteinen wesentlich von ihrer Neuviatät bedingt. Da aber stets nur die Proben 1-3 mit 4-8 und 9 mit 10-11 verglichen und entsprechende Anreicherungsfaktoren errechnet werden spielt das differierende Verhalten keine Rolle bei den vorliegenden Betrachtungen.

Diskussion

Das Ergebnis läßt erkennen daß sowohl das heterologe Albumin als Antigen wie auch das homologe gamma-Globulin als Antikörper in Form eines Immunkomplexes stärker an die Erythrozytenoberfläche gebunden werden als die entsprechenden freigegebenen Proteine. Der gebildete lösliche Antigen Antikörper Komplex besitzt also gegenüber der Erythrozytenoberfläche eine größere Adsorptionsneigung, die als spezifische Oberflächenaktivität definiert ist (18) als die einzelnen Proteine, aus denen sich der Immunkomplex zusammensetzt. Wie aus Tab. I hervorgeht, ist sie um den Faktor 3-12 größer als bei den Bestandteilen, aus denen sich der lösliche Komplex aufbaut. Aus diesem Befund läßt sich mit großer

Wahrscheinlichkeit die Schlußfolgerung ziehen daß die Erythrozyten innerhalb des strömenden Blutes eine Reinigungsfunktion bezüglich gebildeter löslicher Antigen Antikörper Komplexe erfüllen. Ihre Fähigkeit zu einer spezifischen Adsorptionsbindung solcher Stoffe kann als Beweis für ihre entsprechende Aufgabe betrachtet werden. Ob dabei die Korpuskeln selbst eine Schädigung erleiden und einer beschleunigten Sequestrierung anheimfallen wie das insbesondere bei den allergisch hämolytischen Zuständen augenfällig ist, muß offen bleiben.

Der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft danken wir für ihre Unterstützung. F. L. E. BUCHENAUER und Frl. R. SERT danken wir für wertvolle Mitarbeit.

Zusammenfassung

Die Erythrozytenoberfläche adsorbiert lösliche Antigen-Antikörper Komplexe in stärkerem Ausmaß als die beiden Bestandteile, aus denen sich dieser Immunkomplex zusammensetzt. Als Modellsystem eines löslichen Antigen-Antikörper Komplexes wurde ein Humanalalbumin-Antihumanalalbumin-Kanarienvogelantikörper untersucht. Aus der spezifischen Anreicherung des Immunkomplexes an der Erythrozytenoberfläche wird der Schluß gezogen, daß die Erythrozyten bei der Eliminierung von Antigen-Antikörper Komplexen aus der Blutbahn aktiv beteiligt sind.

Summary

The surface of erythrocytes adsorbs soluble antigen-antibody complexes to greater extent than it does either of the two components of the complex separately. Human albumin and rabbit antihuman-albumin antibody was investigated as model of soluble antigen-antibody complex. The specific concentration of the immune complex at the red cell surface suggests that these cells are actively involved in the removal of antigen-antibody complexes from the circulation.

Résumé

La surface des érythrocytes adsorbe un complexe soluble antigène-anticorps dans une proportion plus forte que les deux facteurs dont se compose le complexe. L'anticorps de lapin albumine humaine-antialbumine humaine est étudié comme modèle d'un complexe soluble antigène-anticorps. Sur la base de l'enrichissement spécifique du complexe immunologique à la surface érythrocytaire les auteurs concluent que les érythrocytes jouent un rôle actif dans l'évacuation des complexes antigène-anticorps du sang circulant.

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Histochemical Studies of Leukocytes from an Inflammatory Exudate

V Alkaline and Acid Phosphatases and Esterases*

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In the present study migrating granulocytes and macrophages obtained by the "skin window" technique were examined histochemically for activity of alkaline and acid phosphatases (phosphomonoesterases) and esterases. Activity of these enzymes has previously been investigated in leukocytes from peripheral blood, but migrating cells have received little attention.

Methods

In each experiment successive populations of migrating leukocytes were studied using RUSSECK's skin window technique (11-15). The leukocytes migrated from small excoriation to coverslip, which was changed hourly for 12 hours. After removal from the lesion the coverslips were dried for up to 6 hours (or for up to 2 days in the alkaline phosphatase series) fixed in suitable fixative, rinsed in tap water, incubated in the specific medium, rinsed, counterstained with MAYER's haematoxylin and mounted in glycerine jelly. The incubation media (see below) were prepared and filtered immediately before use.

Principle of histochemical reactions: The enzymes are demonstrated using simultaneous coupling and dye techniques, and the incubation media contained naphthol (or substituted naphthol) ester diazonium salt and buffer maintaining an optimum pH. The enzyme in question hydrolyses the ester and the liberated naphthol groups react *in situ* with the diazonium salt forming an insoluble coloured precipitate in the cytoplasm of the positive cells.

Alkaline phosphatase reaction (4 skin window experiments). The incubation medium contained sodium α -naphthyl phosphate and Fast Garnet GBC salt in propandiol buffer pH 9.75 (3). The coverslip preparations were fixed in acetone at 0 °C for 30 to 60 minutes before incubation for 60 minutes at 4 °C (5) or for 20 to 30 minutes at room temperature.

Acid phosphatase reaction (4 skin window experiments). The incubation medium contained sodium α -naphthyl phosphate (1 mg/ml) and Fast Garnet GBC salt (1 mg



Fig. 1 a) Alkaline phosphatase reaction in migrating leukocytes from 12 hour preparation. The neutrophils show varying alkaline phosphatase activity whereas the macrophage is negative b) Acid phosphatase reaction in migrating leukocytes from 11 hour preparation. Neutrophils and macrophages are equally positive and contain numerous granules. Inset: Macrophage and neutrophil from control preparation incubated in the acid phosphatase medium without substrate. The cells are negative apart from a few large precipitates of decomposed azo dye.

mal) in acetate buffer (0.1 N, pH 5.0) (8). The coverslip preparations were fixed in acetone at 11°C . for 30 minutes or in 10° neutral formal-saline for 3 to 10 minutes before incubation for 30 to 45 minutes at 37°C .

α -Naphthyl acetate method for non-specific esterase (4, skin window experiments) The incubation medium contained α -naphthyl acetate and Fast Blue B salt in phosphate buffer pH 7.4 (2). The preparations were fixed in 10° neutral formal-saline at 4°C for 10 minutes before incubation for 30 minutes at room temperature. A few preparations were incubated in medium containing β -naphthyl acetate.

Naphthol AS-D chloroacetate method for non-specific esterase (6 "skin window experiments") The incubation medium contained naphthol AS-D chloroacetate and Fast Garnet GBC salt in barbitol buffer pH 7.4 (7). The preparations were fixed for 30 seconds in neutral formalin 10° in methanol at 0°C (or for 5 minutes in neutral formal saline at 4°C) before incubation for 30 minutes at room temperature. To ascertain the specificity of the reactions a number of coverslips were incubated in the various media

omitting the specific substrate. The different histochemical reactions were also applied on blood films. The erythrocytes washed off, when the blood films were fixed in cold acetone or neutral formal saline, but the leukocytes remained adherent. The skin window experiments were performed on two healthy subjects.

Results

Each of the phosphatase and esterase reactions presented a characteristic distribution of enzyme activity.

Alkaline phosphatases In the skin window preparations the migrating neutrophils presented a varying alkaline phosphatase activity. The cell clusters contained both negative and positive neutrophils, the reaction in the positive cells ranging from a few brown granules to a dense granular precipitate (fig. 1a). The average alkaline phosphatase activity was strongest in the neutrophils from late "skin window" preparations. The eosinophils were negative and basophils were not recognised in these nor in the other series. The macrophages were also negative or contained few granules (fig. 1a). The control preparations were negative. The neutrophils in blood films also showed varying activity, but none of the cells were as positive as the most strongly positive migrating cells. All lymphocytes, monocytes and eosinophils were negative.

Acid phosphatases Activity of these enzymes was demonstrated in all types of migrating leukocytes. Neutrophils, eosinophils and macrophages were equally positive and there was no appreciable variation in the staining intensity of the individual cells (fig. 1b). The migrating leukocytes from the control preparations contained irregular yellow crystals of decomposed azo dye, which, however, were quite different from the small distinct brown granules in the other preparations (fig. 1b). Neutrophils, eosinophils and monocytes from blood films were moderately positive, and some lymphocytes contained a few granules. In blood films incubated in the control medium, however, the non-specific precipitates sometimes had a similar distribution.

Esterases The two methods for non-specific esterases revealed different activity patterns. When *α -naphthyl acetate* was used as substrate all granulocytes were negative, but the macrophages were positive as shown by a diffuse black precipitate in their cytoplasm (fig. 2). In the blood films the monocytes stained intensely (fig. 2) whereas lymphocytes and granulocytes were negative. The control preparations were negative, and no esterase activity was observed,

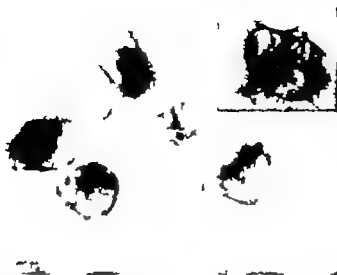


Fig. 2. β -Naphthyl acetate reaction for non-specific esterases in migrating leukocytes from 12 hour preparation. The macrophages are positive and the neutrophils negative. No nuclear counterstain. Inset: Monocyte from peripheral blood, same reaction.

when β -naphthyl acetate was used as substrate. The *naphthol AS-D chloroacetate* method revealed a strong esterase activity in neutrophilic granulocytes. At the onset of migration the cytoplasm of the neutrophils presented a very intense red staining whereas the reaction was slightly weaker in the large cell clusters from late preparations (fig 3a and b). Due to the diffuse staining of the neutrophilic cytoplasm the previously described process of cytoplasmic budding and the presence of free cytoplasmic globules were easily seen in these preparations (17). The first macrophages to migrate only presented a very weak staining but in the late preparations some of the macrophages contained coarse granules or large inclusions of intensely stained material (fig 3b and c). The eosinophils presented no esterase activity with this method and no staining was seen in the control preparations. In the blood films the neutrophils were intensely stained the eosinophils and the lymphocytes were negative and the monocytes were weakly diffusely stained or negative.

Comment

The previous histochemical studies were concerned with a number of well-defined enzymatic processes and the findings were



Fig. 3. Naphthol AS-D chloroacetate reaction for non-specific esterases. a) Intensely positive migrating neutrophils from 3 hour preparation. Three cytoplasmic globules can be seen. No nuclear counterstain. b) Two weakly positive macrophages and three strongly positive neutrophils from late "skin window" preparation. Counterstained with haematoxylin. c) Macrophages from 12 hour preparation containing heavily stained inclusions. Counterstained with haematoxylin.

discussed in terms of leukocyte metabolism (17, 18, 19, 20). The present results are more difficult to interpret, due to the fact that the metabolic role of phosphatases and esterases in leukocytes is largely unknown. Their substrate specificity is low and possibly each of the histochemical reactions demonstrates several enzymes, which are capable of hydrolysing the synthetic substrate. However it seems of interest that the various types of migrating leukocytes present completely different patterns of phosphatase and esterase activity.

Earlier reports on the phosphatase and esterase activity of leukocytes are mainly concerned with cells from peripheral blood. The alkaline phosphatase reaction has been accepted as a routine method in clinical haematology and need no further comment (3, 21). The α -naphthol esterase reaction in monocytes was first described by BLAUENSTEIN (2) and MOLONOV *et al.*, applied the naphthol AS-D chloroacetate method to blood films and marrow smears. They also reported that tissue histocytes are strongly positive (7). These observations have been confirmed in a few more recent papers (1, 4). RABINOVITZ and ANDERSON employed Gomori's lead phosphate technique for the demonstration of acid phosphatases in blood films (10), and later RESICK *et al.* used

the same method for the staining of "skin window" preparations (12). The technique, however, is unsatisfactory as the results are difficult to interpret due to marked diffusion of the reaction product. Recently LORRAIN AND BAKUMOFF have described an azo dye technique for the demonstration of phosphatases at pH 6.3 to 6.5 (5) but it seems doubtful, whether this method is able to demonstrate the same enzymes as the usual acid phosphatase reactions, which are performed at pH 5. The standard azo dye method, which was used in the present study, proved very successful for the demonstration of acid phosphatase in "skin window" preparations, but was less satisfactory when applied to blood films.

The most characteristic feature of the alkaline phosphatase reaction in migrating neutrophils (and in neutrophils from blood films) was the pronounced variation in the activity of the individual cells. In the "skin window" preparations the neutrophils constituted a mixture of negative, weakly and strongly positive cells. Similar variations have previously been observed in the case of phosphorylase and glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase, whereas all the other enzymes studied presented almost the same activity in all neutrophils apart from gradual variations in successive "skin window" preparations (17, 18, 19, 20). It is possible that some enzymatic processes vary with the changing activity of the individual neutrophils whereas others are concerned with their basic metabolism. In this connection it is interesting that the alkaline phosphatase and phosphorylase activity of blood neutrophils varies under pathological conditions (3, 16, 21) whereas for instance esterase activity recorded by the naphthol AS-D chloroacetate method presents no such changes (4). The alkaline phosphatase activity in neutrophils from "skin windows" has previously been studied by REAUCK *et al.* and PERILLIE AND FINCH who found that the activity in migrating neutrophils varies with that of blood neutrophils under pathological conditions (9, 12, 13).

It is well known that the non-specific esterases represent a heterogeneous group of enzymes, but it has been subject to discussion, whether the different histochemical methods demonstrate the same enzymes (2, 7). However, the observation that the α -naphthyl acetate and naphthol AS-D chloroacetate methods reveal completely different patterns of activity shows that these substrates are not hydrolysed by the same enzymes. In addition no leukocyte esterases were able to hydrolyse β -naphthyl acetate.

In all the reactions the precipitation of the azo dye complex was confined to the cytoplasm of the leukocytes, but otherwise it is doubtful, whether the azo dye techniques are able to reveal the

correct intracellular localisation of the enzymes. The distinct granular precipitates, which were observed with the acid phosphatase reaction, may however reflect a lysosomal or mitochondrial localisation of the enzymes (8). Some of the macrophages from late "skin window" preparations contained large inclusions which stained intensely with the naphthol AS-D chloroacetate method. It is likely that these inclusions were ingested fragments of neutrophilic cytoplasm, the presence of which is frequently seen in May-Grünwald-Giemsa stained preparations.

The controversial problem of the origin of the macrophages has had a central position in earlier studies of the migration in "skin windows". The large number of macrophages in late preparations can only be explained by a haematogenous origin, but it is not known whether they are migrated lymphocytes, monocytes or both. Morphologically most of the macrophages resemble monocytes, but REBUCK AND CROWLEY describe a progressive alteration in their size and shape, which they interpret as a gradual transformation of lymphocytes into large macrophages (11). RUS did not confirm this sequence, but found that those macrophages, which did not spread over the surface of the coverlip, resembled lymphocytes (14). The morphological evidence for the lymphocytogenous origin of macrophages in "skin windows" is, however, inconclusive. The present experiments show that histochemically the macrophages are more closely related to the monocytes, particularly in respect to α -naphthol esterase activity which was only demonstrated in these cell types. This observation suggests that the macrophages are migrating monocytes.

Summary

Activity of alkaline phosphatases, acid phosphatases and esterases was studied histochemically in migrating leukocytes from skin windows using two dye coupling techniques. Esterases were demonstrated both by the α -naphthyl acetate method and the naphthol AS-D chloroacetate method. The different types of migrating leukocytes presented different patterns of activity. Leukocytes from blood films were examined using the same methods, and noticeable similarity was observed between the enzymatic pattern of exudative macrophages and blood monocytes. The experiments also showed that the two esterase methods do not demonstrate the same enzymes.

Résumé

Etude histochimique de l'activité des phosphatases alcalines et acides des leucocytes émigrés dans une fenêtre cutanée à l'aide d'une technique de couplage avec un colorant azoté. Recherche des estérases par la méthode de l' α -naphthylacétate

anal que par celle de naphthol-AS-D-chloroacétate. Les divers espèces de leucocytes énumérés montrent des activités différentes. Les mêmes méthodes ont été appliquées à l'étude de leucocytes de frotis du sang périphérique; une analogie frappante entre les activités enzymatiques des macrophages de l'exsudat et de celles des leucocytes du sang pouvait être observée. Les recherches démontrent en outre que les deux méthodes de recherche des estérases ne déterminent pas les mêmes ferments.

Zusammenfassung

An ausgewanderten Leukocyten eines «Häufungsstrichs» wurde mit einer Ausfarbmethode-hupplungsmethode die Aktivität der alkalischen und sauren Phosphatasen und der Esterasen histochemisch untersucht. Die Esterasen wurden sowohl mit dem «Naphthylazetat» als auch mit dem Naphthol-AS-D-Chloroacetat Verfahren nachgewiesen. Die verschiedenen Arten ausgewandeter Leukocyten zeigten verschiedene Aktivitäten. Mit denselben Methoden wurden Leukocyten in Blutausstrichen untersucht, und es fand sich eine auffällende Ähnlichkeit der enzymatischen Befunde bei Exsudat Makrophagen und bei Blut Monocyten. Die Versuche ergaben ferner daß mit den beiden Esterase-Methoden nicht dieselben Enzyme nachgewiesen werden.

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Bridge Anticoagulant Neutralizing Agent: Properties and Isolation

By F NOUR ELDEIN

FRANK AND HARTMAN (4) and GOVAERTS AND GRATIA (5) demonstrated that the blood-clotting time of haemophilic blood was improved by the addition of a small volume of normal plasma. The responsible agent, associated with the plasma globulin (11 24) was termed antihæmophilic globulin (9). The preparation of potent material combined with the development of new laboratory techniques, have recently lead to the re-assessment of the beneficial effect of this antihæmophilic factor (factor VIII). Of the many interesting observations which have accumulated, two are noteworthy: the rapid turn-over of antihæmophilic globulin (1 8) and the need for extraordinary amounts of this factor in order to achieve appreciable correction of the deficient plasma thromboplastin (12, 23). NOUR ELDEIN (16 18) showed that the first phenomenon was not peculiar to hæmophilia, being also observed in normal individuals. On the other hand, evidence has been provided showing that the presence of a specific blood-clotting inhibitor Bridge anticoagulant reduces the *in vivo* effect of factor VIII (22, 23). Following the latter work it was speculated that should Bridge anticoagulant be removed or its activity be neutralized it would be possible to attain a marked improvement in the formation of plasma thromboplastin in hæmophilic blood by using relatively small amounts of factor VIII.

Recent investigations (17 19) have demonstrated that an agent which seems to stem from thrombin-fibrinogen interaction, renders inert Bridge anticoagulant, hence the absence of the latter in serum.

Further experiments were carried out in an endeavour to isolate this neutralizing agent from fibrinogen-thrombin mixtures sub-

jected to different conditions (unpublished work). Whilst it was apparent that fibrino-peptide (10) was devoid of such an effect, contamination with thrombin made it difficult to assess the significance of the slight activity of other preparations.

The present work provides evidence showing that Bridge anti-coagulant neutralizing agent (BANA) is present in sera obtained by the coagulation of normal blood and stored pooled plasma. The preparation and separation of BANA from these sources are described and its properties reported.

Methods

Reagents were prepared as described by Nour-Eldin (19, 21). Although the present work was carried out using platelet suspension, practically the same results are obtained on utilizing inositol phospholipid as platelet-substrate (giving substrate clotting-time of 9-10 seconds with normal reagents). For maximal stability solutions of human factor V and porcine factor VIII were made in cold (4°C) buffered saline, consisting of equal volumes of 0.9% NaCl and imidazole buffer pH 7.3. These were freshly prepared and kept in an ice-bath until added to the incubation mixture.

Slates, from barium sulphate was carried out by solution consisting of 2 volumes of 2.5% sodium citrate and 8 volumes of 0.9% NaCl.

Elasm fractionation: The method of Connor et al. (2) was essentially followed.

Blood-clotting tests: Since the blood-clotting times and prothrombin consumption are within normal range in 38% and 30% respectively of patients with haemophilia and Christmas disease, no particular importance was attached to the results of these tests. On the other hand, plasma thromboplastin formation being always deficient, offered the best method to detect improvements in these defects. The procedure used was as follows.

Plasma thromboplastin activity: The basic incubation mixture in most instances consisted of equal volumes of undiluted haemophilic $Al(OH)_3$ -treated plasma, imidazole buffer pH 7.3, factor VIII solution, normal serum and 0.05 M $CaCl_2$. The activity of plasma thromboplastin formed after 6 minutes at 37°C was tested by taking 0.1 ml thereof and adding it together with 0.1 ml 0.025 M $CaCl_2$ to 0.1 ml substrate (normal citrated plasma) at 37°C, recording the clotting time. Certain modifications in the procedure and concentration of reagents were, however, necessitated by the purpose in view. Details of these are given in the appropriate sections.

Results

Effect of undiluted serum. Table I shows that the use of undiluted normal serum (in place of the usual 1:10 dilution) in the incubation mixture (containing undiluted haemophilic plasma) improves the clotting-time of the substrate, whether or not factor VIII was incorporated in the mixture. Serum, however, had no effect when utilized in incubation mixtures free of Bridge anticoagulant (containing no haemophilic plasma) as indicated by the results in table

Table I

The effect of undiluted serum on the generation of plasma thromboplastin from undiluted haemophilic plasma.

Reagents in incubation mixture	Ml			
	1	2	3	4
Serum	1 10	undiluted	1 10	undiluted
Al(OH) ₃ -haemophilic plasma (undiluted)	+	+	+	+
Factor VIII (0.3 mg/ml)	+	+	—	—
Imidazole buffer pH 7.3	+	+	+	+
0.9% NaCl	—	—	+	+
Platelet suspension	+	+	+	+
0.025 M CaCl ₂	+	+	+	+
Substrate clotting-time	28	15½	72	36½

Six minutes after adding CaCl₂ 0.1 ml of the mixture and 0.1 ml 0.025 M CaCl₂ were simultaneously added to 0.1 ml normal citrated plasma (substrate) at 37° C. Results are average of 4 experiments in each case.

+ = used — = not used.

Table II

Absence of serum action on mixture free of Bridge anticoagulant.

Exp.	Factors in incubation mixture (equal volumes)*				Substrate clotting time, sec.
	Factor V (20 mg/ml)	Factor VIII (0.3 mg/ml)	Platelet suspension	Serum	
A	+	—	+	1:10	36
B	+	—	+	undiluted	37
C	+	+	+	1:10	10
D	+	+	+	undiluted	10

Mixed with imidazole buffer pH 7.3 and 0.025 M CaCl₂ in all experiments. For details see table I.

II. This denotes that serum specifically counteracts the inhibitory action of Bridge anticoagulant.

Three conceivable mechanisms by which serum could exert this action were considered a) accelerating thrombin formation from prothrombin, b) the effect of Bridge anticoagulant is counteracted by an increase in the concentration of factor IX and/or factor VII and c) inactivating Bridge anticoagulant by a hitherto unknown agent. The first probability was excluded by the experiments illustrated in table III from which it will be seen that serum fails to shorten the clotting time of the substrate when added to the latter together with already formed plasma thromboplastin. The following investigations dismiss excess serum factor IX or factor VII from being the responsible agents thus leaving the third mechanism as being the most likely explanation.

Table III

Procedure	Reagents	Experiment			
		1	2	3	4
1. Incubation mixture Equal volumes of reagents incubated at 37 °C for 6 min.	Normal serum (undiluted)	+	—	+	—
	Normal serum (1:10)	—	+	—	+
	Undiluted Al(OH) ₃ -treated haemophilic plasma	+	+	+	+
	Factor VIII (0.3 mg/ml)	+	+	—	—
	Platelet suspension	+	+	+	+
	Imidazole buffer pH 7.3	+	+	+	+
	0.05 M CaCl ₂	+	+	+	+
2. Testing activity 0.1 ml of incubation mixture together with 0.1 ml of reagent (opposite) added to 0.1 ml substrate	1:6 serum in 0.025 M CaCl ₂	—	+	—	+
	0.025 M CaCl ₂	+	—	+	—
3. Results** Clotting time of substrate, sec.		14	27	36	68

Prepared by mixing 1 volume of undiluted serum with 5 volumes of 0.03 M CaCl₂.
The substrate clotting-time (sec.) in each case is the average of 4 tests.

+ = used; — = not used

Table IV

The effect of different sera on plasma thromboplastin production from undiluted haemophilic plasma.

Undiluted serum	Specimen		
	A	B	C
	clotting time, sec.**		
Normal	14	13	—
Haemophilic	27	28	28
Christmas disease	28	26½	26½
Control (1:10 normal serum)	27½	27	27½

Serum was incubated at 37 °C with equal volumes of undiluted Al(OH)₃-treated haemophilic plasma, Factor VIII (0.3 mg/ml), factor V solution (10 mg/ml imidazole buffer pH 7.3), platelet suspension and 0.05 M CaCl₂. The activity of formed plasma thromboplastin was tested after 6 minutes.

Normal citrated plasma was used as substrate. Results are averages of 2 experiments in each case.

Activity of different sera. Sera prepared from the blood of patients with haemophilia or Christmas disease, who have prothrombin consumption within normal range (in order to avoid high thrombin concentration in the incubation mixture) were utilized. The results demonstrated in table IV reveal that these sera, in contrast to the normal reagent, are ineffective in improving the deficient

plasma thromboplastin formed in the presence of undiluted $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$ -treated haemophilic plasma, thus denoting that neither excess factor VII or X (in both haemophilic and Christmas disease sera) nor high levels of factor IX (in haemophilic serum) is the responsible agent.

The effect of dilution. Table V shows that although different samples of undiluted serum (obtained from different normal subjects) show great variations in their action on the inhibitory effect of haemophilic plasma, slight degrees of dilution have marked adverse effect on this property in all instances.

The effect of ether. During attempts to identify the ether-precipitated fraction (7) containing the responsible agent, a curious observation was that whilst the majority of BANA activity was associated with the globulin fraction the total activity after ether treatment exceeded that of the original serum. It was, therefore, decided to investigate the effect of freezing in the presence of excess ether (13). Promising results were obtained on mixing with 50% ether and lowering the temperature: an increase in the activity amounting to 4-8 fold was achieved at temperatures below -60°C (acetone- CO_2 mixture). This can be seen on comparing the results before and after ether treatment at -25°C and -65°C (table VI). Since simple freezing at these temperatures did not influence the activity of serum, it was concluded that the presence of ether during freezing was essential for the enhancement of BANA activity. No further increase in the activity of serum was noticed on repeating the ether treatment.

Properties of BANA. Plasma separated from expired bank blood and freeze-dried pooled plasma were found after being converted to serum, to be suitable sources of BANA. The latter could

Table 5
The effect of dilution on serum activity

Normal serum	Specimen				
	A	B	C	D	E
		Substrate clotting time, sec.			
Undiluted	11	12	11	14	13
1:2	14	13	14 ₂	17	18
1:4	17 ₂	19 _{1/2}	18 _{1/2}	22 _{1/2}	22
1:10	19 ₂	23	25	28	27

Serum diluted as indicated was incubated with the same reagents as in table IV.

The same source of haemophilic plasma as used in all experiments.

Normal citrated plasma was used as substrate. Results are average of 2 experiments in each case.

Table VI
Effect of ether-treatment on serum activity

Normal serum*	Before	Ether treatment	
		25°C	After -63°C
		Substrate clotting time, sec.	
Undiluted	11½	9	9
1:2	13	11	9
1:4	16	12	10
1:8	19½	14	12½
1:16	23½	18	15½
Control (0.9% NaCl)	27	—	—

Serum treated and diluted as indicated was added to an incubation mixture consisting of equal volumes of $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$ -treated undiluted haemophilic plasma, platelet suspension, normal serum (1:10), imidazole buffer pH 7.3 and Factor VIII (0.5 mg/ml). Six minutes after adding 0.05 M CaCl_2 at 37°C the activity of formed plasma thromboplastin was tested, using normal citrated plasma as substrate.

be adsorbed on calcium phosphate, aluminum hydroxide and barium sulphate. For quantitative elution, however barium sulphate proved to be superior (80% recovery) to the other reagents (30 to 40%). Satisfactory elution from barium sulphate can be attained with 0.5% trisodium citrate in 0.8% NaCl. At this concentration of sodium citrate negligible amounts of factors VII and IX are eluted. Precipitation of BANA from solution occurred at 50% saturation with ammonium sulphate and 1.1 M phosphate. No deterioration in serum BANA was observed on storing sera at -25°C for 4 months, at 2°C for 1 week, at 37°C for 16 hours or at 50°C for 10 minutes. On the other hand, serum became practically devoid of activity following incubation at 60°C for 5 minutes. Freeze-drying had no appreciable effect on the activity of serum, but caused a slight loss in that of isolated BANA.

Preliminary clinical trial of serum. Although this paper is mainly concerned with the identification and separation of BANA, a concise note on the preliminary *in vivo* evaluation of this substance in serum does not appear to be out of place. It will, however be appreciated that these preliminary trials were limited by the restricted availability at the time, of sterile serum which also being untreated with ether contained low activity of BANA.

For prophylactic effect, observations were conducted on 5 patients aged 4-18 years who have seldom been free of spontaneous bruises and suffered frequent attacks of haemarthrosis. On being given approximately 200 ml. serum at intervals of 9-17 days, the spontaneous bruises completely disappeared and all expressed that

haemarthrosis became less frequent, though not completely prevented. They were also less liable to develop intramuscular haematomas following minor trauma. After approximately 2 years, without the patients being aware, the serum was changed to plasma in 3 cases. The clinical change was remarkable all 3 patients developed spontaneous bruises and the severe attacks of haemarthrosis recurred within 4-10 weeks. In the remaining 2 patients, serum was combined with plasma these remained free of subcutaneous bleeding and had negligible swelling of joints. After a further period of 14 months, serum was discontinued and these 2 patients received double volumes (400 ml) of plasma. This was followed within 4-8 weeks by noticeable haemorrhagic episodes.

Therapeutically serum was tried on 3 occasions.

1 A male aged 13 years with Christmas disease, bled excessively after circumcision at the age of 8 months. He has also suffered repeated attacks of haemarthrosis in the elbows and knees. Haematuria occurred once after a blow on the right loin. Severe bleeding in the left knee followed a fall. On admission to another hospital, his left lower limb was put in plaster which had to be removed 2 days later because of intolerable pain. He was then provided with a caliper and advised not to stand on this leg. Two years later I saw him with greatly swollen left knee which could not be extended or flexed. Rest to the joint with back splint for 10 weeks, reduced the size of the joint but, however, deformity was corrected under general anaesthesia and plaster applied for 9 weeks. The resulting severe muscle wasting hindered the patient from using his leg without caliper. An intensive physiotherapy course was, therefore, instituted together with serum and plasma transfusions at 9-14 days intervals no complications being encountered following the extensive passive and active manipulations carried out. After 11 weeks the patient was able to walk and attend Grammar School without the aid of the caliper stick or any other appliance.

2 A boy with Christmas disease, aged 8 years, was given 700 ml serum before and during the extraction of 4 teeth, but excessive bleeding continued. The administration of 200 ml plasma was followed by instant cessation of bleeding. No appreciable loss of blood was recorded after these transfusions.

3 A man aged 76 years with Christmas disease, was admitted for the extraction of 4 teeth. Family history showed that he was one of 4 brothers who all suffered from spontaneous haemarthrosis and severe bleeding after teeth extractions. His elbows were fixed at 130° and he had swollen knees and ankles. Teeth removal was preceded by serum and plasma transfusions the operative field was remarkably free of bleeding and post-operative loss of blood was negligible.

Changes in the blood-clotting defect. Concurrently with the above clinical observations, laboratory tests were performed in order to study the effect on the coagulation mechanism of serum and/or plasma administered in cases of haemophilia and Christmas disease. Blood samples examined were procured before and 10 minutes after the transfusions using in the latter case another vein in order to avoid contamination with the injected material. The results in two of these cases are presented in table VII. No concrete conclusions are derived from the alterations in the blood-clotting time and prothrombin consumption index (see methods) these being given for completion of record only. It is, however, obvious that maximal improvement in the production of plasma thrombo-

plasma in the presence of undiluted $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$ -treated plasma is induced by combined serum and plasma transfusion. However for adequate haemostasis during operative procedure, substrate clotting-time well below 20 seconds is necessary. This would require larger amounts of these reagents.

Table VII

Effect of in vivo serum and plasma on the blood-clotting tests in haemophilia and Christmas disease.

Patient	Transfusion (equal volume)	Blood clotting time, min.	Yes	Thrombo- plastic formation, substrate clotting time in sec.
			Prothrombin consumption index %	
Haemophilia	Nil	>30	200	105
	plasma + saline	23	75	70
	plasma + serum	19	50	50
Christmas disease	Nil	>30	180	92
	serum + saline	18½	30	59
	plasma + saline	17	50	68
	plasma + serum	14½	25	39
	plasma + plasma	13½	25	51

Total volume approximately 400 ml. Plasma and serum separated from normal donor's blood. The effect of reagents was tested on specimens of blood procured 10 minutes after completion of transfusion, usually lasting 1-2 hours.

Using patient's undiluted $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$ -treated plasma in the incubation mixture with equal volumes of patient's serum 1:10, platelets suspension, imidazole buffer pH 7.3 and 0.05 M CaCl_2 . The activity of formed plasma thromboplastin was tested after 5 minutes at 37 °C on normal substrate (citrated plasma).

From these investigations, it was concluded that serum or serum and plasma, but not plasma alone reduce the incidence of spontaneous bleeding, particularly subcutaneous haematomas. For the management of trauma and surgery however larger volumes of serum must be supplemented by the appropriate blood-clotting factor (VIII or IX) in sufficient amounts. This being in conformity with in vitro experiments prompted the isolation and concentration of BANA for use in major operations and systematic, large-scale clinical trial. The results of these will be described in a separate article. However the method used for isolating BANA is now described.

Isolation of BANA

The method consists of three main steps: preparation of serum, activation with ether and precipitation of activated material.

1. Preparation of serum. In the case of fresh blood, serum is obtained from blood allowed to clot at 37 °C for 5 hours and stored thereafter at 4 °C for 16 hours. For pooled plasma, of the several methods tried (in order to obtain the maximal amount of serum and remove the voluminous clot) the following method, being applicable for aseptic work, is now adopted. To each 100 ml plasma, 7 ml 1M CaCl_2 is added. The specimen

which usually clots in 25-40 minutes is incubated at 37°C for 4-5 hours and at 4°C for 16-18 hours. The vessel containing the clotted plasma is then stored at -25°C for 24 hours. On thawing, the clot which is now reduced in size permits the decantation of 80-90 ml serum from each 100 ml original plasma.

2. Activation with ether After cooling serum to 1°C, 0.5 volume of cold (1°C) ether is added. Mixing is carried out by rapid rotation of the container for 3-4 minutes at 0°C. The mixture is then freeze-dried, and allowed to reach the temperature of an acetone-CO₂ bath. The frozen material is allowed to thaw slowly at 4-6°C. Thawing at temperatures above 20°C is detrimental to the activity of BANA. After centrifugation at 5°C, the serum layer is separated and freed of ether under vacuum.

3. Isolation of activated BANA Although adsorption on barium sulphate and elution can be used, ethanol fractionation (2) is more suitable for large-scale aseptic work. BANA activity is concentrated in the protein fraction precipitated at pH 5.8, 0.66 M fraction ethanol and 0.04 M sodium concentration. γ -globulin is extracted from this by reagent containing 0.05 M fraction ethanol, 0.005 M Na and 0.6 M glycine at pH 5.5. The remaining precipitate containing BANA is dissolved in 0.9% NaCl. After removing undissolved material by centrifugation at 4°C freeze-drying is carried out.

Activity and stability of freeze-dried BANA. Material purified by elution from barium sulphate with 0.5% sodium citrate had no significant effect on the blood-clotting time of normal blood and did not materially alter the one-stage prothrombin time of factor V or factor VII deficient plasma. On the other hand, it corrected the clotting-time and prothrombin consumption of haemophilic and Christmas disease blood. Tested by the thromboplastin generation method, it improved the action of factors VIII and IX in the presence of undiluted haemophilic or Christmas disease plasma respectively. This is illustrated in table VIII which also shows the effect of storage (under vacuum, over P₂O₅) on the activity of freeze-dried BANA. Slight loss of activity occurred after 2 months. Longer periods of storage resulted in an appreciable loss, amounting in some cases to about 60% after 6 months.

Table VIII
Stability of freeze-dried BANA.

Concentration of BANA mg/ml buffered saline*	Specimen No.			
	fresh (10/6)	stored* Substrate clotting time, sec.	fresh (15/4)	stored
3.0	11½	13	11½	14
1.5	15	17½	15½	20
0.75	21	23	22	25½
Control (buffered saline)	28	27½	28½	27

Buffered saline consists of equal volumes of 0.9% NaCl and imidazole buffer pH 7.3. Specimen 10/6 was stored for 2 months and specimen 15/4 for 4 months under vacuum over P₂O₅.

One volume of BANA solution was mixed at 37°C with equal volumes of undiluted Al(OH)₃-treated haemophilic plasma, factor VIII solution (0.3 mg/ml) imidazole buffer pH 7.3 and platelet suspension. Six minutes after adding 0.05 M CaCl₂ the activity of plasma thromboplastin was tested by adding 0.1 ml thereof together with 0.1 ml 0.025 M CaCl₂ to 0.1 ml substrate (normal citrate plasma) at 37°C, recording the clotting-time.

Discussion

There is no dispute regarding the absence of factor VIII activity in serum. Nevertheless, undiluted normal serum is effective in improving the plasma thromboplastin formed in the presence of undiluted haemophilic plasma and augments the correction produced by factor VIII (table I). Examination of certain explanations for this action of serum demonstrated the specificity against the inhibitory effect of Bridge anticoagulant. The conclusion that none of the known blood-clotting factors is responsible for Bridge anticoagulant neutralization receives further support from differences in properties. For the successful recovery of factors VII and IX from barium sulphate, a higher concentration of sodium citrate is required. Factors XI and XII are both unaffected by adsorbents and the latter is stable at 60°C for 30 minutes (25-26).

The exact method by which ether enhances the activity of BANA in serum is at present difficult to define. None of the layers discarded after ether treatment had an inhibitory effect. The removal of an anticoagulant by ether is, therefore, most unlikely. Direct activation of already-formed BANA appears to be a remote possibility since the activity of material isolated from untreated serum was not increased after ether-treatment. Treatment with chloroform induces proteolytic activity in plasma (3) while certain agents release biologically active peptides from plasma and serum (27). Some of these e. g. acetone, dilution, versene, epsilon-aminocaproic acid and foreign surfaces, have recently (6, 14-15, 28) been shown to be dependent on the presence of one of the blood-clotting factors, Hageman factor (factor XII). These observations suggest the following possibilities, which are being investigated for potentiating BANA activity in serum by ether: a) ether may release from serum proteins a compound with a similar activity to BANA or which facilitates its action, and b) BANA exists in serum as a part of a complex compound from which a more active agent is split off by ether.

Studies on defibrination (19) have denoted that BANA can be furnished by low concentrations of exogenous thrombin. In the light of this information, defective thrombin generation cannot be accepted as a reason for the absence of BANA in haemophilic and Christmas disease sera. It is, therefore, suggested that this absence is most probably due to the utilization of BANA in the inactivation

of the inhibitor in these conditions. This view is supported by the presence of BANA in the sera of two cases of combined factor VIII deficiency and capillary defect (VON WILLEBRAND's syndrome) the blood being free of Bridge anticoagulant (29-30).

The destructive effect of undiluted serum on plasma thromboplastin (20) being counteracted by excess factor V in undiluted haemophilic plasma as well as added factor V is of no importance in the interpretation of the present experiments.

In order to overcome the inhibitory effect of plasma with a high level of Bridge anticoagulant, at least 2 volumes of normal serum are required. The clinical use of comparable volumes would be beset with difficulties. However the use of pooled plasma from expired blood as a source of serum together with the activation of BANA with ether at low temperature, considerably eases the situation.

Acknowledgements. I wish to thank all the patients, blood donors and Hospital Staff whose co-operation made possible the testing of BANA; the United Manchester Hospitals for a grant from their Research Endowment during the initial stages of the work and, Mrs. CHRISTINE ELTON and Miss ANNE FINE for typing the manuscript.

Summary

Normal undiluted serum contains Bridge anticoagulant neutralizing agent (BANA), the action of which is independent of the already-known blood-clotting factors in serum. The properties of, and the effect of certain conditions on this agent have been studied. A method is described for its separation, from fresh blood and stored plasma, after being activated with ether at low temperature. *In vitro* experiments as well as preliminary clinical trial showed that for physiological correction and adequate improvement of the haemophilic and Christmas disease defects, the addition of BANA to factors VIII and IX respectively is necessary.

Résumé

Le sérum normal, non dilué, contient un facteur qui peut neutraliser l'anticoagulant Bridge (BANA). Son action est indépendante de tous les facteurs de la coagulation du sérum connus jusqu'à présent. Les propriétés et le mode d'action de ce facteur sont étudiés. Une méthode d'isolation à partir du sang frais et du plasma conservé après activation par l'éther à des basses températures est décrite. Des expériences *in vitro* et une étude clinique provisoire démontrent que l'addition du BANA aux facteurs VIII et IX est nécessaire pour une correction physiologique et une amélioration adéquate des défauts de coagulation de l'hémophilie et de la "Christmas disease".

Zusammenfassung

Normales unverdünntes Serum enthält ein Agens, das das Bridge-Anticoagulant neutralisiert (BANA). Seine Wirkung ist unabhängig von den bisher bekannten Gerinnungs-

nungsfaktoren des Serums. Eigenschaften und Wirkungsmodus dieses Agens wurden untersucht. Es wird eine Methode zu seiner Isolierung aus Fiechblut und konzentriertem Plasma nach Aktivierung mit Äther bei niedrigen Temperaturen beschrieben. Versuche *in vitro* und eine vorläufige klinische Prüfung zeigten, daß die Zugabe von BANA zu den Faktoren VIII und IX notwendig ist für eine physiologische Korrektur und adäquate Behebung der Gerinnungsdefekte bei Hämophilie und Christmas disease.

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On the Concept of Slowly and Rapidly Acting Coumarin Drugs

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It is well established that after administration of coumarin or indanedione derivatives the activity of prothrombin, factor VII factor IX and factor X decreases in the peripheral blood. This is believed to result from the partial inhibition of the production of the mentioned clotting factors formed in the reticulo-endothelial system. After administration of sufficiently high doses of coumarin drugs to block completely the synthesis of these clotting factors, their subsequent fall in activity will depend on their consumption *in vivo*, provided that the drug does not interfere directly with the turnover rate.

This study was designed to compare the rapidity of action of three coumarin derivatives in dogs.

Methods

Methods as previously described were used (9).

Five blood samples were taken on the first day of each experiment, and 3 blood samples day on the following days. The results obtained in the different assays have been converted to percentage of normal plasma activity of the respective clotting factor.

For each experiment and each factor the regression line and correlation coefficient were calculated, the distribution being assumed as normal (1). The values below 15% in the P and P test and below 10% in the factor VII plus λ assay were not taken into account. On the curves constructed by plotting logarithm of activity in percentage versus time it could be seen that these plots were situated just above the best fitting straight line. The *t*-value was calculated from the students test.

The half-life ($t_{1/2}$) is defined as the time interval required for fall in concentration of clotting factor activity by 50%. This value is calculated on the regression line.

Experimental Procedure

Sixteen dogs (14-30 kg.) were used for 22 experiments with 3-(1'-phenylpropyl)-4-hydroxy coumarin (Phenprocoumon) bis-3-(4-hydroxy-coumarinyl)-ethyl acetate (Ethyl-biscoumacetate) or 3-(α -acetyl-p-nitrobenzyl)-4-hydroxycoumarin (Nicoumalone). A very high loading as well as maintenance dose was given during at least 84 hours in order to obtain rapidly high concentration of drug at the synthesis site. The exact mode of administration, dosage and choice of coumarin drugs in each experiment is summarized in table I.

Table I

Dose in mg. of coumarin, orally or intravenously (I.) administered in morning (M), afternoon (A) or at night (N)

Number of experiments	Anticoagulant	Mode of administration	Dose first day			Dose following days		
			M	A	N	M	A	N
6	Phenprocoumon	I.	30		10	10		10
1	Phenprocoumon	I.	10		10	-		10
2	Phenprocoumon	oral	30	6	9	9	3	9
3	Phenprocoumon	oral	12	9	9	9	-	9
5	Ethyl-Biscoumacetate	oral	2400	900	900	900	900	900
5	Nicoumalone	oral	32	16	16	16	16	16

The coumarin drugs were kindly supplied by Roche and Geigy (S. A. Christens, Brussels) under the brandname Marcoumar Tromexan and Sintrom respectively.

Results

In figs. 1-3 the mean calculated regression lines for different clotting factors are represented. The curve corresponding to Phenprocoumon administration (fig 1) is the calculated mean curve for 12 experiments performed in different dogs. For each experiment at least 12 determinations of the different assays were performed at fixed time intervals after the administration of a blocking dose of Phenprocoumon. Each line represents therefore 140 determinations. Nicoumalone (fig. 2) and Ethyl-biscoumacetate (fig 3) have been administered to 5 days respectively. The mean half life of the different clotting factors can be seen in table II.

Discussion

In addition to the determination of the biological half-life of single blood clotting factors we have also calculated the "half life" of mixtures of blood clotting components according to the values of combined assessments. It is realised that each clotting factor has its own survival time. The disappearance rate of clotting factors

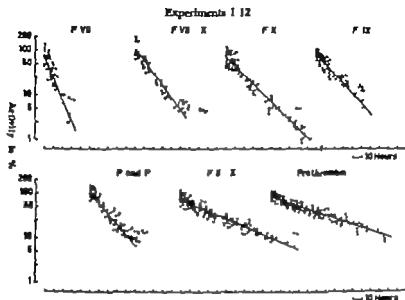


Fig 1 The mean calculated regression lines for different clotting factors in 12 experiments (1-12) with completely synthetic blocking doses of Phenprocoumon during at least 84 hours.

Table II

Half-life of various clotting factors (hours) after administration of massive doses of Ethyl-biscoumatate, Nicoumalone and Phenprocoumon.

	Ethyl-biscoumatate	Nicoumalone	Phenprocoumon
P and P test	12.8	15.1	13.0
F VII	3.9	6.8	6.2
F VII + X	10.2 +	13.5 +	11.0
F X	14.5	18.3	16.8
Prothrombin	39.2	30.8	42.8
F IX	12.6	16.7	13.4
F II + X	30.0	30.7	33.4

The differences between these half-life values, found after administration of 3 different coumarin drugs are statistically not significant ($p > 0.05$) excepted + (= 2,70).

calculated on the basis of such non-specific determinations is nevertheless of interest (7 10 16) and provides valuable information on the mutual contribution of various clotting factors in the combined assays.

a) *Rapidity of action.* It is widely accepted that with therapeutic doses, coumarin drugs differ in their rapidity of action on the depression of clotting factors (2, 9 11) The latent period for the

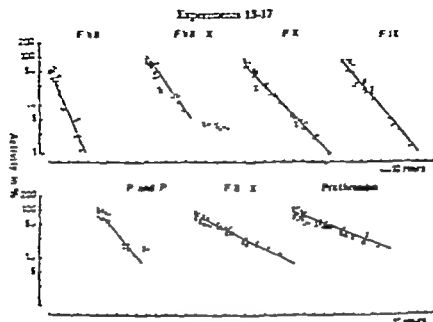


Fig. 13-1. The mean calculated regression lines for different clotting factors in 5 experiments 13-1 with comparably systematic dosages of Vincristine during at least 56 hours.

Table III

Decrease in activity of various clotting factors 4.6 and 10 hours after administration of mean doses of Ethyl-biscoumacetate (5 experiments) and Phenprocoumon (15 experiments) mean values

	Quadrone mg	P and P	F VII	F VII-X	FX	Proth.	F IX	F II-X
Before treatment	6.8	1.03	7.7	113.9	7.3	92.8	1.1	80.0
After 4.6 h								
range 3-6.5	17	83.5	~3	53.9	61.0	86.9	4.7	7.0
After 10 h								
range 9-11 h	~3	~7	22.9	~42	~37	71.3	~3.5	62.7

"rapidly" acting Ethyl-biscoumacetate is between 8-12 hours and for the "slowly" acting Phenprocoumon between 24-48 hours the time required to produce therapeutic hypoprothrombinaemia" is said to be 18-20 hours and 48-72 hours respectively (4, 5). During the latent period no change in the concentration of the different clotting factors is expected to occur.

Therefore the linear regression line corresponding to the exponential decrease of the various clotting factors should be above the values determined at 5 and 10 hours. We found however in the

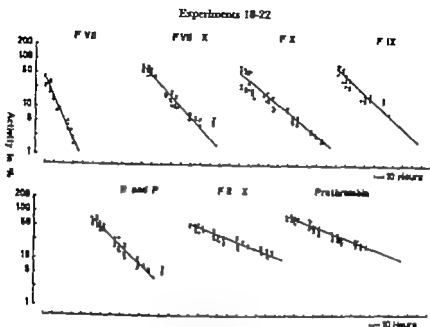


Fig. 3. The mean calculated regression lines for different clotting factors in 5 experiments (18-22) with completely synthetic blocking doses of Ethyl-bis coumatate during at least 84 hours.

present experiments (fig 1-3) that 5 and 10 hours after massive administration of Ethyl bis coumatate, Nicoumalone or Phenprocoumon the determined values in the factor VII and combined factors VII plus X assays are on or very close to the linear regression line. The interpretation of these findings is that the coumarin effect is already complete within this short time interval.

In table III the mean values are given of the different assays obtained before, 4.6 and 10.2 hours after the loading dose of Phenprocoumon (15 experiments) or Ethyl-bis coumatate (5 experiments). After 10 hours, the factor VII and combined factors VII plus X activity is already decreased to respectively 20 and 28% of the original value, although the one stage "prothrombin" time is not significantly changed. It is to be noted that between the 4.6th and 10.2th hours after the administration of the coumarin drug, the factor VII activity decreases by almost 50%. This time interval corresponds to the half life of factor VII which suggests that \pm 5 hours after the intake of coumarin drugs the block on factor VII production is complete although the one-stage "prothrombin"

time still remains within normal limits. It is likely that the synthesis of other coagulation factors is similarly blocked at the same time. Our experiments lead to the observation that after administration of massive doses of the anticoagulant a similar activity pattern is found for Phenprocoumon (administered either by intravenous or oral route) as for Nicoumalone or Ethyl-biscoumacetate (oral administration). The same period of latency which is less than 4.6 hours was found for the drugs tested. Similar results were obtained by PERLICK (13) SMITH (15) and RODMAN (14) but several other authors found a different delay of effect for each anticoagulant tested. This controversy can partly be explained by the different doses used (15) and the various methods selected to follow the coumarin effect. The importance of the sensitivity of the methods is apparent. When P and P values are compared to the one stage prothrombin² times at 10 hours after intake of the loading dose, the former test corresponds to 58.7 / and the one stage prothrombin time is still in the normal range. Furthermore if the factor VII assay is selected, the activity of coumarin drugs on blood coagulation is more rapidly detected than with a one stage prothrombin time on undiluted blood (performed with a factor VII sensitive tissue-thromboplastin)

b) Slope of the curves In figs. 1-3 can be seen that the slope of the different curves remains constant even at low concentrations of the determined clotting factors except for the combined factor VII plus λ assays and the P and P test where a systematic deviation of the linearity is observed. This phenomenon can be explained by the observation that a factor VII free plasma still has a 7.5-1% activity in the combined factors VII plus λ assessment (8). This unexpected finding is to be related to the discordant proportions of clotting factors in coumarin plasma whereas in the serial dilutions of the normal plasma, used to establish the reference curves, all clotting factors are similarly diluted. In the beginning of coumarin administration, factor VII disappears very rapidly from the peripheral circulation and this influences the factor VII plus λ assay. Once the factor VII activity becomes very low a further decrease does not influence significantly the factors VII + λ assay provided the factor λ activity is still at a moderate level. A similar explanation can be offered for the interpretation of the P and P test which at the start reflects the activity of factors II + VII and λ , subsequently by factors II + λ and eventually mainly factor II. For factor IX

assessments, less accurate low values are explained by incomplete deficiency in factor IX activity of the substrate plasma used.

c) *The difference between slowly and rapidly acting coumarin derivatives* The alleged shortest (Ethyl biscoumacetate) and longest acting (Phenprocoumon) coumarin derivatives have been chosen deliberately for these experiments. Nicoumalone is considered to take an intermediate position. We have demonstrated in this study that these three anticoagulants have the same period of latency. The half life of the various clotting factors influenced by the three anticoagulants does not differ significantly as can be seen in table II. These results were obtained after administration of doses of the anticoagulant capable of completely blocking synthesis of the appropriate factors, which we consider to be the unique method of comparing the rates of induction of effect produced by different coumarin drugs.

In determining the time interval necessary to obtain a one stage "prothrombin" time within the therapeutic zone, it has been found that this level was rapidly obtained with Ethyl-biscoumacetate and after some delay with Phenprocoumon (4-5). The effect is more rapidly attained with Nicoumalone than with Dicoumarol (11) or Warfarin (12).

The main difference is that Phenprocoumon is slowly eliminated and a single dose of this drug can have a sustained effect for one week. To decrease the activity of a clotting factor to a certain level, only a small proportion of the cells producing the relevant factor have to be blocked and so the appearance of the coumarin effect will be delayed. With the rapidly excreted Ethyl biscoumacetate a larger dose is needed to obtain an adequate effect by virtue of maintaining the tissue concentration against urinary excretion. Because of this larger dose, more productive cells are blocked and the rate of effect is chiefly dependent on the half-life of the clotting factors in the circulation.

These studies have shown that classification into "rapidly acting" and "slowly acting" anticoagulants drugs can be misleading. They are only "rapidly acting" or "slowly acting" because by clinical experience induction dosages are used which have been found to bring the patient to the chosen therapeutic level and not beyond. When used in large enough doses they produce this induction effect with equal speed. The kinetics of the decrease in activity of a clotting factor sensitive to coumarin drugs depends on the half life

Varia

Asian and Pacific Society of Hematology

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Methoden der Immunhämatologischen Forschung. Hgbl. von Carl Stöckl, Bibliotheca Haematologica, Fasc. 14. S. Karger AG, Basel/New York 1963. VI + 202 S., 40 Abb., III Tab., Preis DM 14,-/F 52,-

Im Rahmen des achten Kongresses der europäischen Gesellschaft für Hämatologie, der im September 1961 in Wien stattfand, wurde eine Reihe von Kolloquien über immunhämatologische Techniken abgehalten. C. Stöckl gebührt das Verdienst, die Ergebnisse dieser Aussprache im vorliegenden Band einem breiteren Kreise zugänglich gemacht zu haben. Die besprochenen Themen umfassen den Coombs-Test, die Leukoagglutination, den Antiglobulinkonsumptionstest, die passive Hämagglutination, die Immunkupulation im Agar-Gelee sowie die Sedimentationsanalyse in der Ultrazentrifuge. Alle jene, die an diesen Methoden interessiert sind, findet dieser Bericht reichhaltige Anregungen.

A. Hämmerle, Bern

Ergebnisse der Bluttransfusionsforschung. Bd. VII. Schock und Kollaps - Fehler, Irrtümer und Gefahren bei der Bluttransfusion und Infusion von Bluttransfusionsmitteln - Kolloquium. Bibliotheca Haematologica, Fasc. 16. Hgbl. von H. Hämmerle und H. Spemann. S. Karger AG, Basel/New York 1963. 424 S., 100 Abb., Preis Fr. 60,-

Die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Bluttransfusion hielt vom 23. bis 26. Mai 1962 ihr 10. Tagung unter dem Vorsitz von Prof. Dr. H. Birkhäuser de la Camp ab. Die Hauptthemen waren: Schock und Kollaps und zweitens Fehler, Irrtümer und Gefahren bei der Bluttransfusion und Infusion von Bluttransfusionsmitteln. Nach einführenden Plenarsitzungen über Pathophysiologie und Klinik verschiedener Schockformen wurden in weiteren Vorträgen unter anderem hämatologische Veränderungen bei Trauma, Hexamethosphosphatrykämie, Erythrozytenstoffwechsel, Membranschädigungen menschlicher Erythrozyten und Hämolyse und Plasmazellkörper unter besonderen Bedingungen der Clottinge besprochen. Unter dem zweiten Thema hatten Feller und

Gefahren bei Bluttransfusionen und Infusionen von Blutersatzmitteln in serologischer und allergischer Hinsicht, in der Organisation des Bluttransfusionswesens und hinsichtlich der Indikationsstellung von Bluttransfusionen und Infusionen von Blutersatzmitteln zur Dekompression. Außerdem widmeten sich einige Autoren verschiedenen Fragen der Blutkonservierung. Am Schluß der Tagung fanden Kolloquien statt, die sich vor allem mit immunhämatologischen Untersuchungsmethoden, Arzneimitteldrogen und Bluttransfusionswesen und ethischen Fragen im Bluttransfusionswesen beschäftigten.

H. Tüchsen, Basel

G. Sinner: Das C-reaktive Protein. (Fortschritte der Immunitätsforschung, Bd. 5). Dr. Dietrich Steinlopf Verlag, Darmstadt 1963. XII + 68 S., 1 Abb., Preis DM 18.-

Wie der Autor in seinem Vorwort selbst bemerkt, hat er mit dieser Beschränkung den Versuch unternommen, «das zusammenzustellen, was bis heute über das C-reaktive Protein bekannt ist». Dieser Versuch ist ihm bestens geglückt. Unter Zitation von 254 Arbeiten gibt er eine knapp gefaßte, aber umfassende Übersicht über die Biochemie, die pathogenetische und klinische Bedeutung dieses «Entzündungsproteins».

A. Hämig, Bonn

Symposium on Kaposi's Sarcoma. Kampala (Uganda) 1961. Hg. von Louis F. Achenbach und James F. Murray. S. Karger AG Basel/New York 1963. 174 S., 119 Abb., 29 Tab., Preis sF /DM 52.

Das sogenannte «Kaposi-Sarkom» das 1872 durch Moritz Kaposi als besondere Krankheit in Wien erkannt wurde, ist in Europa immer noch eine recht seltene Erscheinung. In Afrika hingegen stellt es beim Eingeborenen eine relativ häufige Affektion dar, ebenso häufig wie z. B. das Karzinom oder das Melanom der Haut es ist bei Schwarzen zehnmal häufiger als bei Weißen. Diese Tatsache allein rechtfertigte den Gedanken, ein Symposium über diese Krankheit in Zentralafrika zu organisieren, wofür die Internationale Union gegen den Krebs (UICC) die Patenschaft übernommen hat. In der soeben herausgekommenen Monographie werden vom Pathologen und Kliniker, an Hand eines außerordentlich großen, meist aus Afrika stammenden Untersuchungsgutes, die zahlreichen noch offenen Fragen erörtert. Man findet insbesondere sehr wertvolle Beiträge über Statistik, klinische Erscheinungen, pathologische Anatomie, Behandlung usw. über Spezialfragen, wie die immer noch nicht restlos abgeklärte Bedeutung der Kaposi-Wucherungen zu den Blutgefäßen und über Einschießen der Histopathologie. Die letzten Kapitel sind besonders eindrucksvoll, da bis heute eine derartige Fülle von Befunden (Biopsien, Krankengeschichten und Autopsien) wohl kaum zusammengestellt worden ist. Trotz allen sehr detaillierten histologischen und histochemischen Untersuchungen bleibt die Histogenese der großen Spindelzellen, welche für diese Krankheit charakteristisch sind, im Dunkeln; die meisten Autoren der Ansicht gewesen, daß sie außerhalb der Blutgefäße entstehen, also nicht endostaler Herkunft sind (verleihen Pericyten oder Schwann'sche Zellen). Man findet auch an einzelnen Stellen der Beiträge die Ansicht verschiedener Pathologen über die eigentliche Natur dieser Wucherung; die meisten sind der Meinung, daß die Bezeichnung «Sarkom» nicht korrekt ist. Für alle Kliniker und Pathologen, die sich mit den Problemen der Hautpathologie beschäftigen, stellt diese Publikation eine wahre Fundgrube von Dokumenten dar.

FRED C. ROULET Basel

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A. Himm, Bern

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Aus der II. Medizinischen Universitätsklinik in Wien
(Vorstand Prof. Dr. K. Fellinger)

Bestimmung der Glucose-6 Phosphatdehydrogenase-Aktivität in den Erythrozyten zur Erkennung von hypo und aplastischer Erythropoese

VON S. SAILER, F. SANDHOFER UND H. BRAUNSTEINER

Bei Vorliegen einer Anämie sind zwei Fragen zu beantworten 1 Ist die Lebensdauer der Erythrozyten verkürzt? 2 Produziert das Knochenmark genügend Erythrozyten, bzw ist es in der Lage, auf die bestehende Anämie mit einer Steigerung der Erythropoese zu antworten? Während die erste Frage durch den Nachweis einer Blutung oder durch Hämolysezeichen meist bereits klinisch beantwortet werden kann, ist das Problem der quantitativen Erfassung einer verminderten effektiven Erythropoese (2) für die klinische Praxis bisher nicht befriedigend gelöst.

Der reife Erythrozyt besitzt einen lebhaften Stoffwechsel. Einige der daran beteiligten Enzyme nehmen im Verlauf der physiologischen Alterung des Erythrozyten an Aktivität ab. Dies gilt besonders für die Acetylcholinesterase (15 16, 17 13, 22) die Hexokinase (14) die Phosphohexoisomerase (11) die Glyceraldehydphosphatdehydrogenase (6, 7 8) die Glucose-6-Phosphatdehydrogenase (9 10 11 6, 7 8, 1 4 12) die 6-Phosphogluconatdehydrogenase (9 10 11 1) und die Glutaminoxalacetattransaminase (19 20 21 3 5) Diese und auch andere Fermente wurden von uns vergleichsweise untersucht (18) Für eine klinische Anwendung erschien uns die Glucose-6-Phosphatdehydrogenase (G-6-PDH) am geeignetsten, weil die Bestimmung methodisch leicht durchführbar und der Unterschied der Enzymaktivität zwischen jungen und alten Zellen sehr groß ist, so daß aus der gemessenen Enzymaktivität gut auf das mittlere Lebensalter der vorliegenden Erythrozytenpopulation geschlossen werden kann.

Das mittlere Lebensalter einer Erythrozytenpopulation ergibt unter Berücksichtigung des Gesamterythrozytenvolumens Hinweise

auf das Ausmaß der effektiven Erythropoese, d. h. der Anzahl Erythrozyten, die pro Zeiteinheit vom erythropoetischen System ausgeschwemmt werden (2)

Zweck der vorliegenden Untersuchung ist es, die Bestimmung der G-6-PDH zur Beurteilung der effektiven Erythropoese bei verschiedenen Blutkrankheiten heranzuziehen.

Methode

5 ml Heparinblut werden im Verhältnis 2:1 mit 3 %igem Dextran (Fa. Knoll, Ludwigshafen) in physiologischer NaCl-Lösung, die mit TRIS-Puffer auf pH 7,4 gepocht wurde, versetzt, einige Male gekippt und eine Stunde bei Zimmertemperatur stehen gelassen. Während dieser Zeit sedimentierten die Erythrozyten in allen Fällen, die Leukozyten und Thrombozyten befanden sich in der übersiehenden Phase. Nach Abheberung der übersiehenden Flüssigkeit betrug die Leukozytenkonzentration der Erythrozytenschicht höchstens 100 mm³. Eine sorgfältige Abtrennung der Leukozyten ist unbedingt notwendig, da die G-6-PDH-Aktivität in den Leukozyten um 2 bis 3 Zehnerpotenzen über der der Erythrozyten liegt. Eine zu große Leukozytenbeimengung erhöht daher die gemessene Aktivität beträchtlich.

Die Erythrozyten werden durch Schlämme gründlich gewaschen, 0,1 ml in ein Zentrifugenröhrchen pipettiert, zweimal mit 2 ml gepufferter Hankscher Lösung (pH 7,4) durch Zentrifugieren 3 Minuten bei 1000 U/Min. gewaschen, 1,0 ml gesättigte Disodiumoxalatlösung zugesetzt, 15 Minuten bei 4 °C hämolysiert, dann bei 5000 U/Min. durch 10 Minuten das Sroma abzentrifugiert und das Hämolysat sofort zum Test eingesetzt.

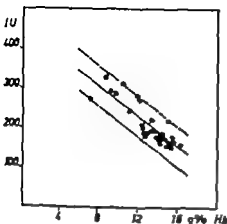
Bestimmung der Enzymaktivität: Der Ansatz umf. 0,1 ml Hämolysat, 2,75 ml Triäthanolamin-Puffer ($3 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m} + \text{EDTA } 5 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m}$) und 0,1 ml TPN ($10 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m}$) wird durch 10 Minuten im durchströmten temperierten Küvettenhalter im Photometer Eppendorf (Fa. Netheley & Hens, Hamburg) auf 35 °C gebracht, dann mit 0,05 ml Glucose-6-Phosphat-Na ($4,1 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m}$) die Reaktion gestartet. Endvolumen 3 ml, Schichtlänge 1 cm, Wellenlänge 366 nm. Die Reaktion wurde mit Hilfe eines Reagenziatals und eines automatischen Schreibers (Philips PR 2210 A-00) laufend registriert. Die verwendeten Reagenzien stammen von der Fa. Boehringer Mannheim. Die gemessenen Aktivitäten werden in Internationalen Einheiten (I.U. = $\mu\text{mol Substratumsatz Minute}$) bezogen auf 10¹² Erythrozyten angegeben. Die Bestimmung des Hämoglobins erfolgte nach der Cyan-Hämoglobinmethode.

$$\text{Berechnung } 1 \text{ U } / 10^{12} \text{ Ery} = \frac{9130 \text{ Hb}_{\text{H}} \cdot \Delta E_{1 \text{ min}}^{\text{norm}}}{\text{Hb}_{\text{H}} \text{ Ery}}$$

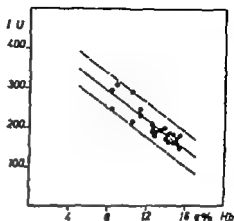
Hb_H = Hämoglobin im Vollblut in g% Hb_H = Hämoglobin im Hämolysat in g%
Ery = Anzahl der Erythrozyten im Vollblut mm³ in Mill.

Ergebnisse

1 Normale Enzymaktivität. Bei 44 gesunden Personen mit einem Hämoglobingehalt von 14 bis 16 g / (im Mittel 14,9 g %) im Vollblut wurde die mittlere Enzymaktivität der Erythrozyten untersucht. Sie betrug im Mittel 169,7 I.U. $\sigma = \pm 18,4$



a)



b)

Abb. 1. Funktionell intaktes Knochenmark: a) Hämolytische Anämie (und Normale)
b) Blutungsanämie ohne Eisenmangel (und Normale).

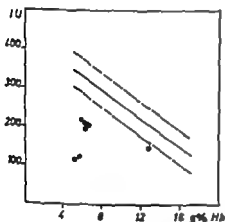


Abb. 2

Abb. 2. Hypoplasie (○) und Aplasie (●) des Knochenmarkes.

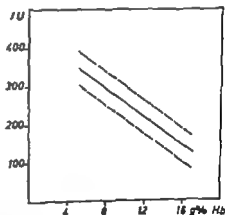


Abb. 3

Abb. 3. Unbehandelte Perleukose.

2. *Leukämie mit funktionell intakter Erythropoese* In Abb. 1 und die Enzymaktivitäten der Patienten mit Blutungsanämie ohne Eisenmangel, d. h. nach ausreichender Zufuhr von Eisen, wiedergegeben. Die Aktivitäten sind dabei gegen g / Hb im Vollblut aufgetragen. Es zeigt sich, daß die gemessenen Enzymaktivitäten umso höher liegen, je niedriger der Hb-Spiegel im Blut ist. Es besteht eine sehr gute negative Korrelation zwischen gemessener Enzymaktivität und Hämoglobin im Vollblut ($r = 0,937$ $p < 0,001$ $\gamma =$

10 Verlaufskurven. Als Maß für die Funktionstüchtigkeit des erythropoetischen Systems wählten wir das Verhältnis der gemessenen Enzymaktivität zum Sollwert bei intakter Erythropoese. In den Abbildungen 9–13 sind einige typische Verlaufskurven der Erythropoese bei Behandlung verschiedener Blutkrankheiten wiedergegeben. Bei einem Fall von Eisenmangelanämie stieg die Ak

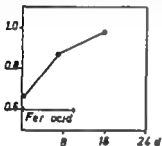


Abb. 9. Eisenmangelanämie.

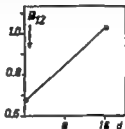


Abb. 10. Perniciose.

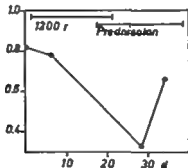


Abb. 11 Lymphadenose.

tivität nach parenteraler Eisenzufuhr zur Norm an (Abb. 9) Bei einer unbehandelten Perniciose normalisierte sich die Aktivität nach 1000 Gamma B₁₂ (Abb. 10) In Abb. 11 sind die Verminderung der Erythropoese bei einem Fall von chronischer lymphatischer Leukämie unter Röntgenbestrahlung (Gesamtdosis 1200 r) und die darauffolgende Erholung unter Prednisolon dargestellt. In ähnlicher Weise wurde die Erythropoese bei einem Fall von Morbus Hodgkin durch Cytostatika (30 mg TEM) gehemmt. Auch hier konnte durch Prednisolon die Erythropoese gebessert werden (Abb. 12) Im Laufe einer akuten Anurie nahm die Fermentaktivität

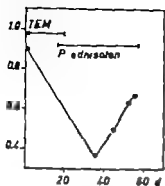


Abb. 12. Morbus Hodgkin.

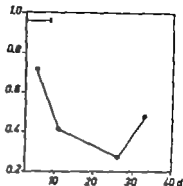


Abb. 13. Anämie.

schon nach wenigen Tagen ab und erreichte ihren tiefsten Wert in der vierten Woche, um dann wieder anzusteigen. Wiederholte Sterealnäpunction bestätigten auch morphologisch die mangelnde Erythropoese. Erst in der dritten Woche wurde die Anämie manifest (Abb 13)

Diskussion

In der vorliegenden Arbeit wurde aus der Abnahme der G-6-PDH Aktivität im Laufe der physiologischen Alterung der Erythrozyten auf das mittlere Lebensalter der Erythrozyten einer gegebenen Population geschlossen. Eine normale Fermentaktivität, wie sie bei gesunden Versuchspersonen gemessen wird, entspricht einem normalen mittleren Lebensalter der Erythrozytenpopulation. In diesem Fall halten sich die Zahl der pro Zeiteinheit ausgeschwemmten jungen und die der zugrunde gehenden Erythrozyten die Waage. Die effektive Erythropoese reicht zur Erhaltung des normalen Hämoglobinspiegels aus. Bei Vorliegen einer Anämie bestehen wesentlich kompliziertere Verhältnisse. In diesem Fall bedeutet dieselbe Fermentaktivität, eine normale Lebensdauer der Erythrozyten vorausgesetzt, daß gerade nur so viele junge Zellen ausgeschwemmt als alte Zellen zerstört werden. Dies hat zur Folge, daß die Anämie stationär bleibt und daß, je niedriger der Hämoglobinspiegel ist, pro Zeiteinheit entsprechend weniger Zellen ausgeschwemmt werden. Die Erythropoese ist vermindert und nicht in der Lage, die Anämie zu kompensieren. Liegen die Werte noch tiefer dann reicht die Erythropoese auch zur Aufrechterhaltung des Hämoglobinspiegels nicht aus, so daß die Anämie progredient wird (12). Es ist demnach selbstverständlich, daß zur Beurteilung der effektiven

Erythropoese der aktuelle Hämoglobinspiegel herangezogen werden muß. Aus diesem Grund wird ja auch zur Beurteilung der Erythropoese auf Grund der Retikulozytenwerte empfohlen, diese nicht in Prozentzahlen, sondern in absoluten oder auf die Erythrozytenzahl korrigierten Werte anzugeben (23). Ein Retikulozytenwert von 1/ bei 5 Millionen Erythrozyten/mm³ entspricht beispielsweise einem Wert von 2/ bei 2,5 Millionen Erythrozyten/mm³. In ähnlicher Weise bedeutet bei einer Anämie ein erhöhter Fermentgehalt in den Erythrozyten noch nicht eine gesteigerte Erythropoese.

Ein funktionell intaktes Knochenmark antwortet bei Vorliegen einer Anämie mit einer Steigerung der Erythropoese. Erst eine vom Grad der Anämie abhängige Steigerung der effektiven Erythropoese ist als funktionell intakt zu bezeichnen. Aus diesen Gründen wählten wir die empirisch gefundene Erhöhung der Enzymaktivität bei Anämien mit funktionell intakter Erythropoese als geeignetes Bezugssystem, nach dem die Erythropoese bei verschiedenen Anämien beurteilt werden kann. Auf Grund unserer derzeitigen Kenntnisse ist die Erythropoese bei Blutungsanämien ohne Eisenmangel als funktionell intakt zu bezeichnen, die in solchen Fällen bei verschiedenen Hämoglobinspiegeln gemessenen Enzymaktivitäten wurden daher zur Aufstellung eines derartigen Bezugssystems verwendet. Dabei besteht eine sehr gute negative Korrelation zwischen Fermentaktivität und Hämoglobingehalt des Vollblutes. Bei Werten, die innerhalb der Confidence limits für 95/ liegen, ist also eine funktionell intakte Erythropoese anzunehmen. Die von uns untersuchten Fälle von hämolytischer Anämie liegen, abgesehen von einer etwas größeren Streuung, ebenfalls in diesem Bereich.

Aus den mitgeteilten Ergebnissen geht bereits der praktische Wert der Methode unter Anwendung dieses Bezugssystems zur Erkennung von hypo- und aplastischen Zustandsbildern der Erythropoese hervor. Eine hochgradige Verminderung der Erythropoese findet sich erwartungsgemäß bei Anämien mit leerem oder zellarmem Knochenmark. Bei den untersuchten Fällen von unbehandelter Perniciosa lagen die Werte weit unter der Norm. Dies ist ein Beispiel dafür, daß aus den morphologischen Erythropoesezeichen im Knochenmark keine sicheren Schlüsse auf die tatsächliche effektive Erythropoese gezogen werden dürfen. Ähnliche Überlegungen gelten für die Eisenmangelanämie. Eine hochgradige Verminderung der effektiven Erythropoese findet sich weiterhin bei unbe-

handelten akuten Leukosen. In den Anfangsstadien der chronischen lymphatischen Leukämie und des Lymphogranuloms ist die effektive Erythropoese in der Regel normal, erst mit dem Fortschreiten dieser Erkrankungen nimmt sie ab und sinkt schließlich auf sehr niedrige Werte. Aus der wiederholten Bestimmung der Aktivität kann demnach ein weiteres prognostisches Kriterium gewonnen werden.

Von praktischem therapeutischen Interesse erscheint die Bestimmung der G-6-PDH Aktivität der Erythrozyten im Verlaufe der Therapie von malignen Bluterkrankungen. Bei normalen Ausgangswerten muß ein Absinken der Aktivität als Warnzeichen aufgefaßt werden, da die intakte effektive Erythropoese nunmehr geschädigt wird. Ein Absinken der Aktivität bei bereits erniedrigten Ausgangswerten im Verlauf der Therapie ist prognostisch als ungünstig zu bewerten, ein Ansteigen kann die Remission anzeigen.

Ein gutes Beispiel für die Erfassung einer mangelhaften effektiven Erythropoese stellt die Bestimmung der G-6-PDH-Aktivität im Verlaufe von akuten Anurien dar. Während die Fermentaktivität bereits kurz nach Eintreten der akuten Anurie auf extrem niedrige Werte abfällt, tritt die Anämie erst nach zwei bis drei Wochen ein. Umgekehrt läßt sich die Erholung der Erythropoese bei noch anämischen Patienten nach Überwindung der Anurie aus dem Ansteigen der Fermentwerte ablesen.

Der wesentliche neue Gesichtspunkt zur Beurteilung der effektiven Erythropoese bei Vorliegen einer Anämie auf Grund der Bestimmung der G-6-PDH Aktivität in den Erythrozyten liegt darin, daß die gemessenen Werte zum Hämoglobingehalt des Blutes in Bezug gebracht werden.

Zusammenfassung

Die Abnahme der G-6-PDH-Aktivität während der physiologischen Alterung der Erythrozyten wird benützt, um über das mittlere Lebensalter einer Erythrozytenpopulation Aufschluß zu erhalten. Auf die effektive Erythropoese kann unter Berücksichtigung des Hämoglobingehaltes im Vollblut geschlossen werden. Ein gezieltes Bezugssystem zur Beurteilung der effektiven Erythropoese bei verschiedenen Anämien wird aufgestellt. Die Ergebnisse bei verschiedenen Bluterkrankungen und die Beeinflussung der effektiven Erythropoese durch therapeutische Maßnahmen werden mitgeteilt und diskutiert.

Summary

The decrease in glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase activity during the process of physiological aging of erythrocytes is used to assess the average age of an erythrocyte population. By taking the hemoglobin content of the whole blood into consideration,

the rate of effective erythropoiesis can be estimated. A suitable reference system is outlined for comparing the effective erythropoiesis in various types of anemia. The results in various blood dyscrasias and the modification of effective erythropoiesis by treatment are reported and discussed.

Résumé

Les auteurs utilisent la diminution de l'activité de la G-6-PDH au cours du vieillissement physiologique des érythrocytes pour obtenir des indications sur la durée moyenne de la vie des érythrocytes. Il est possible d'apprécier l'érythropoïèse effective sur la base de la concentration de l'hémoglobine dans le sang. Un système de référence approprié pour l'appreciation de l'érythropoïèse effective des diverses anémies est construit. Les auteurs rapportent et discutent les résultats obtenus chez différentes maladies hématologiques et l'influence des mesures thérapeutiques sur l'érythropoïèse effective.

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Table II
Blood smears of parents.

		Hypo- chromia	Anisocytosis	Poikilocytosis	Micro- cytosis	Target cells	Basophilic stippling	Ovalocytosis	Polychromasia
A. A.	m	mild	+	+	+	+	+	+++	+
	f	mild	+	+	+	+	+	+++	+
F. A.	m	moderate	++	+++	+	+++	+	+++	+
	f	mild	+	+	+	+	0	+++	+
M. G.	m	moderate	+	+	+	+	0	++	+
	f	moderate	+	+	+	+++	0	++++	0
S. G.	m	mild	+	+	+	0	+	++++	+
	f	mild	+	+	+	++	0	+++	++
A. G.	m	mild	+++	++	+	++	+	+++	++
	f	moderate	++	+	+	+	0	++	+
P. G.	m	moderate	++	++	+	+	+	+++	+
	f	moderate	+	+	+	+	+	+++	+
L. J.	m	moderate	+	+	+	++	+	++	+
	f	absent	+	+	+	+	+	++	+
P. A.	m	moderate	+	++	+	++	+	+	+
	f	mild	+	+	0	0	+	+	+
E. K.	m	moderate	+	+	+	0	0	++	+++
	f	absent	+	+	+	0	0	0	++
D. L.	m	moderate	+	+	+	+	++	+	++
	f	moderate	+	+	+	+	++	0	0
F. M.	m	moderate	+	+	+	+	0	+	+
	f	moderate	+	+	+	0	+	+	+
R. M.	m	mild	+	+	+	+	++++	+	+
	f	mild	+++	+	+	+	++	+++	+
R. S.	m	moderate	+	+	+	+	++	+	+
	f	moderate	+	+	+	+	++	+++	+
F. Z.	m	moderate	+	+	+	+	++	+	+
	f	moderate	+	+	+	+	++	+	+

Legend
 + = 1 or 2 erythrocytes affected in occasional high power fields
 ++ = 1 or 2 erythrocytes affected in each high power field
 +++ = several erythrocytes affected in each high power field
 ++++ = many erythrocytes affected in each high power field

were performed by the alkali denaturation method (15). Levels of A₂-hemoglobin were determined by starch block electrophoresis* utilizing the technique of KUMAR and WALLINGROS (14) as modified by LEMMON (15). Reticulocyte counts on the patients were performed by the new methylene blue method (16)

Results

Table I shows the A₂-hemoglobin levels and fetal hemoglobin levels of the parents of our subjects. The A₂-hemoglobin was greater

These studies were performed in part through the courtesy of Dr. HOWARD PRABSON of the Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland, and in part in our own laboratory

Table III
A₂-Hemoglobin and fetal hemoglobin levels of patients.

	<i>A₂</i> -Hemoglobin	Fetal hemoglobin
	%	%
A. A.	1.9	13.0
F. A.	2.1	76.9
M. C.	1.2	63.8
S. C.	3.5	15.0
A. G.	3.3	60.0
P. C.	1.9	62.5
L. J.	1.2	55.0
P. K.	2.9	63.2
E. K.	2.4	85.0
D. L.	2.4	17.9
F. M.	3.0	76.0
R. M.	3.3	65.0
R. B.	1.6	71.8
P. Z.	1.8	64.0
Normal values	3.6 or less	2.0 or less

than the upper limit of normal for our laboratory (3.6 %) in both parents of all but two of the patients. The father of F. A. and the mother of E. K. had normal *A₂*-hemoglobin levels. The fetal hemoglobin level was greater than the upper limit of normal (2.0 %) in one or both parents of 10 patients. The level was elevated considerably in one parent of each of two of these patients (F. A. and E. K.) In the remainder of the parents the fetal hemoglobin levels were within the normal range.

The blood smears of all the parents were abnormal (table II) with either slight or moderate anisocytosis and poikilocytosis all but two were hypochromic. In some smears, target cells, basophilic stippling, and ovalocytes were present.

The *A₂*-hemoglobin levels of the patients determined at least one month and usually two months following the last transfusion were within the range of normal in all cases (table III). Fetal hemoglobin levels were markedly elevated in all but three patients. The latter all of whom required transfusions very frequently were tested shortly after a transfusion had been given.

The blood smears of the patients all showed hypochromia, marked anisocytosis, and moderate to marked poikilocytosis (table IV). Five patients had many target cells and 5 had numerous red blood cells with basophilic stippling. One patient had many ovalocytes, while 7 others showed only a moderate number. Poly

Table II
Blood smears of parents.

		Hypo- chromia	Aniso- cytosis	Poikilo- cytosis	Micro- cytosis	Target cells	Eosinophilic sludging	Oxalo- cytes	Ne- phrosis
			+	+	+	+	+	+++	+
A. A.	m	mild	+	+	+	+	+	++	+
	f	mild	++	+++	+	++	+	++++	+
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	f	mild	+	+	+	++	0	+++	+
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	f	moderate	++	+	+	++	0	++	+
P. C.	m	moderate	++	++	+	+	+	++++	+
	f	moderate	+	+	+	+	+	+++	+
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	f	absent	+	+	+	+	+	+	+++
P. K.	m	moderate	+	++	+	++	+	+	++
	f	mild	+	+	+	0	0	+	+
E. K.	m	moderate	+	+	+	+	0	++	+++
	f	absent	+	+	+	+	0	0	+++
D. L.	m	moderate	+	+	+	+	++	+	++
	f	moderate	+	+	+	+	++	0	++
F. M.	m	moderate	+	+	+	0	+	+	0
	f	moderate	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
R. M.	m	mild	+	+	+	+	++++	+	+
	f	mild	+++	+	+	+	++	++++	+
R. S.	m	moderate	+	+	+	+	++	+	+
	f	moderate	+	+	+	+	++	+++	+
F. Z.	m	moderate	+	+	+	+	++	+	+
	f	moderate	+	+	+	+	++	+	+

Legend
 + = 1 or 2 erythrocytes affected in occasional high power fields
 ++ = 1 or 2 erythrocytes affected in each high power field
 +++ = several erythrocytes affected in each high power field
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were performed by the alkali denaturation method (13). Levels of A₂-hemoglobin were determined by starch block electrophoresis utilizing the technique of Kunkel and Walling (14) as modified by Linder (15). Reticulocyte counts on the patients were performed by the new methylene blue method (16).

Results

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A₂-Hemoglobin and fetal hemoglobin levels of patients.

	<i>A₂</i> -Hemoglobin %	Fetal hemoglobin %
A. A.	1.9	13.0
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M. G.	1.2	63.8
S. C.	3.5	15.0
A. C.	3.3	60.0
P. C.	1.9	62.5
L. J.	1.2	55.0
P. K.	2.9	65.2
E. K.	2.4	85.0
D. L.	2.4	17.9
F. M.	3.0	76.0
R. M.	3.3	65.0
R. S.	1.6	71.8
V. Z.	1.8	64.0
Normal values	3.6 or less	2.0 or less

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The blood smears of all the parents were abnormal (table II) with either slight or moderate anisocytosis and poikilocytosis; all but two were hypochromic. In some smears, target cells, basophilic stippling, and ovalocytes were present.

The *A₂*-hemoglobin levels of the patients determined at least one month and usually two months following the last transfusion were within the range of normal in all cases (table III). Fetal hemoglobin levels were markedly elevated in all but three patients. The latter, all of whom required transfusions very frequently, were tested shortly after a transfusion had been given.

The blood smears of the patients all showed hypochromia, marked anisocytosis, and moderate to marked poikilocytosis (table IV). Five patients had many target cells and 5 had numerous red blood cells with basophilic stippling. One patient had many ovalocytes, while 7 others showed only a moderate number. Poly-

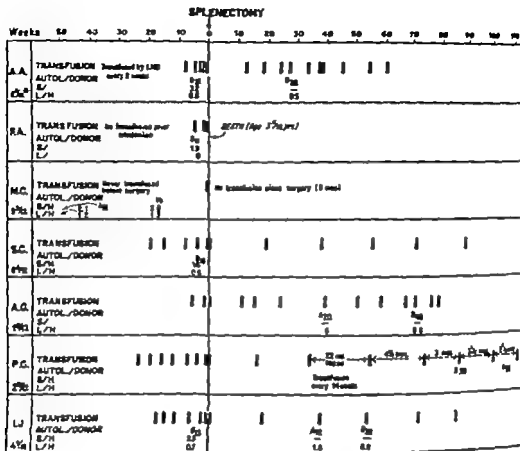


Fig 1A

Fig 1 Transfusion requirements, erythrocyte survival studies, and ages of erythrocyte acquisition.

A or Autol. = chromated autologous erythrocytes S/H = spleen/heart radioactivity
D or Donor = chromated donor erythrocytes L/H = liver/heart radioactivity

Numbers listed below initials refer to age in years at time of splenectomy

chromasia was noted in all but one patient and was marked in 7. Nucleated erythrocytes were present in the smears of all but one subject and markedly increased in 8.

Transfusion requirements and erythrocyte survival studies are shown in fig 1.

A. Pre-splenectomy Transfusion requirements of the patients showed intervals ranging from 2 weeks to 6 months during the period studied; the shortest intervals were found just prior to splenectomy. Hemoglobin levels at the time of transfusion ranged

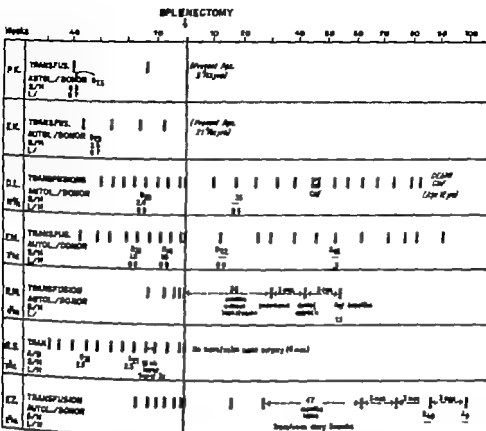


Fig 1B

from 1.6 gm / to 7.9 gm / with a median of 5.2 gm / . Reticulocyte levels determined on 6 of the patients during the presplenectomy period ranged from 0.1 / to 7.6 / with a median of 3.7 / . Autologous erythrocyte survival studies performed in 2 patients (R. S. and M. C.) showed a shortened Cr^{51} -erythrocyte half-life of 21 days in both (normal 28 to 40 days). The latter patient (M. C.) was re-studied 18 months later and the half life was found to have decreased slightly. This patient had never been transfused. The half-life of donor erythrocytes was determined in 9 patients and found to range from 11 to 22 days in 8; in one patient it was 29 days.

In the patients studied before splenectomy autologous erythrocytes were sequestered primarily in the spleen although some uptake was also detectable in the liver. Donor erythrocytes were sequestered

Table IV
Blood smears of patients.

	Hypo- chromia	Anis- cytosis	Poikilo- cytosis	Micro- cytosis	Target cells	Replasmic stippling	Ovulo- cytes	Poly- chromasia	Richard EP ²
A. A. moderate	++++	++++	++++	+	++	++++	+	++++	++
F. A. moderate	++++	++++	++++	+	+	++		++++	+
M. C. moderate	++++	++++	++++	+	+	++		++++	+
S. C. moderate	++++	++++	++++	+	+	++		++++	+
A. C. moderate	++++	++++	++++	+	++++	++	++	++++	+
P. C. moderate	++++	++++	++++	+	++++	++	++	++++	+
I. J. moderate	++++	++++	++++	+	++++	++	++	++++	+
P. h. moderate	++++	++++	++++	+	++++	++	++	++++	+
E. h. moderate	++++	++++	++++	+	++++	++	++	++++	+
D. L. moderate	++++	++++	++++	+	++++	++	0	++++	+
F. M. moderate	++++	++++	++++	+	++++	++	++	++++	+
R. M. moderate	++++	++++	++++	+	++++	++	++	++++	+
R. S. moderate	++++	++++	++++	+	++++	+	0	++++	+
F. Z. moderate	++++	++++	++++	+	++++	+	++	++++	+
	++	++	++	++	++	++	0	++	++

Legend

- + = 1 or 2 erythrocytes affected in occasional high power fields
 ++ = 1 or 2 erythrocytes affected in each high power field
 +++ = several erythrocytes affected in each high power field
 ++++ = many erythrocytes affected in each high power field

mainly in the spleen. Only one patient had no increase of splenic uptake of donor cell radioactivity. She was $2\frac{1}{2}$ years old (the youngest one in the group) had only minimal clinical splenomegaly and had not required transfusions prior to the date of the study.

B Postsplenectomy The transfusion intervals of the splenectomized patients at the time erythrocyte survival studies were performed ranged from 4 weeks to 4 months with 3 exceptions. The exceptions included one patient (R. M.) who was transfused only 3 times in the 4 years following splenectomy and 2 patients (R. S. and M. C.) who had not been transfused following splenectomy 6 months and 9 months ago, respectively. At the time transfusion was given hemoglobin levels ranged from 3.6 gm% to 10.7 gm% with a median of 6.2 gm%. Reticulocyte levels ranged from less than 0.1% to 11.7% with a median of 3.8%.

The half-life of autologous erythrocytes was determined in 6 patients and showed significant shortening with a range of 9-21 days. The donor erythrocyte half-life was studied in 7 subjects and was found to be within the normal range of 28-40 days in all. After splenectomy some sequestration of autologous erythrocytes in

the liver was observed in all 6 patients. Donor erythrocytes, however were not sequestered in the liver

Discussion

A number of investigators have studied erythrocyte production and destruction in patients with thalassemia major. STURGEON AND FINCH (17) employing Fe^{59} and Cr^{51} techniques reported an increased rate of erythrocyte destruction and a hemoglobin turnover comparable to that of other severe anemias; however they observed a defect in effective erythrocyte production. The half life of autologous erythrocytes in 3 patients was 7, 9, and 10 days. Splenectomy did not seem to affect the rate of erythrocyte production. ERLANDSON et al. (2) utilized the Cr^{51} technique to study 10 patients with "severe disease" had the most marked hemolytic defect. From calculations of hemoglobin and erythrocyte production, they concluded that the degree of anemia could not be correlated solely with the rate of erythrocyte destruction or of erythrocyte production or type of hemoglobin produced (adult or fetal). No patient was studied both before and after splenectomy. It is noteworthy that one patient who had been splenectomized and had shown subsequent clinical improvement nevertheless had one of the highest rates of autologous erythrocyte destruction observed. GARDNER et al. (18) employing radioactive glycine, showed that the incorporation of glycine into the hemoglobin of patients with thalassemia major was delayed and decreased, whereas labeling of stercobain was accelerated and increased. This was interpreted to mean that delivery of the erythrocytes was ineffective and that stercobain formation increased as a result of abortive heme synthesis. These data, and the observations of STURGEON AND FINCH (17) have recently been confirmed by HAURANI AND TOCANTINS (19) using both the Fe^{59} and Cr^{51} techniques, and have been reviewed and discussed by BARNICKMAN (20).

In the present study all the patients appear to have thalassemia major. The parents of all but two patients conform to the strict criteria of GERALD AND DIAMOND (21) for the diagnosis of thalassemia minor.

In pre-splenectomy patients there was no correlation between reticulocyte counts and the need for transfusion except in one subject, who had persistent reticulocytopenia and required the greatest

number of transfusions. In this patient no conclusion can be drawn regarding impaired hemoglobin or erythrocyte production because frequent transfusions may have resulted in secondary depression of erythropoiesis. Postsplenectomy patients with nearly identical reticulocyte counts had widely varying transfusion requirements. The median reticulocyte counts obtained before splenectomy did not differ from those in postsplenectomy patients. Data concerning autologous erythrocyte life-span prior to splenectomy cannot be evaluated because studies were performed on only 2 subjects. The shortened donor erythrocyte survival time previously reported for patients with thalassemia major before splenectomy was found in all but one of the subjects in this study. There did not seem to be a direct relationship between this and the transfusion requirement. It is possible that if serial studies were carried out on individual subjects, a closer correlation might be found for donor erythrocyte survival and transfusion requirement.

All postsplenectomy patients showed a shortening of the autologous erythrocyte life-span, but no correlation was found between the life-span and transfusion intervals. For example, the subject R. M. who showed the least need for transfusion, had an autologous erythrocyte half life of 17 days, shorter than those of several other patients who required more frequent transfusions. The donor erythrocyte life-spans were normal in all patients following splenectomy in agreement with the findings of other investigators. They have been observed by us to remain normal for as long as 5 years after splenectomy (F. Z.) Although the transfusion requirement was decreased in all subjects in the postsplenectomy period, the interval between transfusions varied greatly.

Presplenectomy the site of autologous erythrocyte sequestration appears to be the spleen and to a lesser extent other reticulo-endothelial areas, as represented by the liver. Sequestration of donor cells occurs almost exclusively in the spleen with little or none in other reticuloendothelial areas. The one patient (P. K.) whose splenic sequestration of donor erythrocytes was normal is the youngest in our group and had minimal splenic enlargement at the time of study. Although no conclusive statement regarding the correlation between splenic sequestration of donor erythrocytes and transfusion interval can be made, it is noteworthy that the patient (P. K.) who had a normal spleen/heart ratio (S/H) required no transfusions, whereas the patient (A. A.) with the highest S/H

ratio had the greatest transfusion need. Postsplenectomy the sequestration of autologous erythrocytes occurred in the liver and probably in other reticuloendothelial areas. Donor erythrocyte sequestration remained entirely normal. Although it is possible that other sites of erythrocyte destruction develop with time, our data concerning the uptake of radioactivity by the liver do not prove this. It would seem that factors other than erythrocyte destruction by the spleen or other reticuloendothelial areas determine the hemoglobin level in these patients.

It is our conclusion that none of the parameters studied to date either by others or in the present report can be used as a sole index for determining the present need for blood transfusion or the future course of the disease in thalassemia major.

Summary

Clinical status, transfusion requirements, certain laboratory findings, and the survival and sites of destruction of autologous and donor erythrocytes have been evaluated and compared in 14 subjects with thalassemia major. Although varying requirements for transfusion were recognized both before and after splenectomy in different patients of this series, the need for blood transfusion was not closely correlated with hereditary aspects, erythrocyte morphology, reticulocyte levels, or the survival and sites of destruction of either autologous or donor erythrocytes. In subjects with thalassemia major no single parameter alone may be relied upon to determine management.

Résumé

Les auteurs étudient et comparent l'évolution clinique, le nombre de transfusions nécessaires, certains résultats de laboratoire ainsi que la survie et les lieux de destruction des érythrocytes autologues ou provenant d'un donneur chez 14 malades souffrant d'une thalassémie majeure. Bien que le nombre de transfusions nécessaires avant et après la splénectomie diffère chez plusieurs malades, les auteurs ne pouvaient trouver une relation entre la nécessité d'une transfusion et les caractères héréditaires, la morphologie des érythrocytes, le nombre réticulocytaires, la morphologie des érythrocytes, le nombre réticulocytaires, la survie ou les lieux de destruction des érythrocytes autologues ou transfusés. Il n'est pas possible de trouver un seul critère valable chez les thalassémiques, qui, apprécié tout seul, est significatif pour le traitement.

Zusammenfassung

Bei 14 Patienten mit Thalassemia major wurden das klinische Bild, der Bedarf an Transfusionen, gewisse Laboratoriumsbefunde, sowie die Überlebenszeit und die Destruktionstätten von autologen und von Spendererythrozyten untersucht und verglichen. Obgleich sich bei verschiedenen Patienten dieser Serie sowohl vor als auch nach Splenektomie ein verschiedener Bedarf an Transfusionen ergab, ließ sich das Notwendigkeit zur Vornahme von Bluttransfusionen nicht in Beziehung bringen mit erblichen Merkmalen, Erythrozytenmorphologie, Reticulocytenzahl oder Überlebensdauer und Destruktionstätten autologer oder gespendeter Erythrozyten. Bei Patienten mit Thalassemia major läßt sich kein einzelnes Kriterium aufstellen, das für sich allein für die Behandlung maßgebend ist.

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2nd Internal Clinic of Istanbul Medical

4. Yes See attached

The Combination of Hereditary Spherocytosis with Heterozygous Beta Thalassemia*

Study of T

By Muzaf

The combination of hereditary blood dyscrasias are the only a few instances of hereditary other traits have been identified. 1) hereditary elliptocytosis associated with sickle cell trait 2) hereditary elliptocytosis plus hereditary haemoglobin S disease plus hereditary elliptocytosis 3) the combination of hereditary elliptocytosis with haemoglobin C 4) and hereditary elliptocytosis plus heterozygous thalassaemia (3, 4)

Recently we have examined the family members of a patient with Cooley's anaemia. The patient's mother had haematologic findings of beta thalassaemia and also morphologic characteristics of hereditary elliptocytosis. Therefore we strongly suspected that the patient's mother was simultaneously carrying a gene for beta thalassaemia and also a gene responsible for hereditary elliptocytosis. The genetic study of the mother confirmed this possibility.

The purpose of this paper is to report a family with the combination of hereditary elliptocytosis with beta thalassaemia and to discuss the difference in the clinical and haematologic picture between this patient and the other instances described previously.

Abstract

The haematologic methods were described in other articles (5, 6). Haemoglobin A_2 was determined by the method of discontinuous TRIS buffer paper electrophoresis according to the modified technique of GOLUBSON (7) also by starch gel electrophoresis according to the method of SARRIS (9). The maximum normal values for haemoglobin A_2 in these methods were 3.5% for the former and 5% for the latter.

This investigation was supported by grant from the Blood Research Foundation, Washington, D. C.

Table I

Haematologic data on family with the combination of hereditary elliptocytosis and heterozygous beta-thalassemia.

	Case 2 Mother	Case 1 Patient	Case 3 Father	Case 3 Father of Case 2	Case 4 Mother of Case 2
RBC $10^6/\text{cu. mm.}$	4.80	3.10	5.20	4.60	6.00
Haemoglobin, g	11.2	7.2	12	12	12.8
Color index	0.7	0.77	0.78	0.89	0.73
WBC/ mm^3	7,200	23,000	6,700		
Retics.	2	14.8	1		
Haematocrit, %	38	23	43	42	48
MCA μ^2	79	74	86	86.9	80
MCHb., $\gamma\gamma$	23.3	23.2	23	26	21.3
MCHb.C, %	29.4	31	26.6	28.5	26.6
NRC/100 WBC	0	31	0	0	0
Anisocytosis	+++	++++	++	—	++
Polychromasia	—	++	—	—	—
Poikilocytosis	+	++++	++	—	+
Microcytosis	++	++++	++	—	+
Hypochromia	++	+++	++	—	+
Oralocytes, %	26.6	10.4	8	21.4	18
Elliptocytes, %	14.4	0.6	0	2	0
Target-cells	+	++	+	—	+
Osmotic fragility, % NaCl	0.38-0.28	0.38-0.22	0.42-0.32	—	—
Total bilirubin, mg^{100}	1	3.2	0.8		
Serum iron, γ^*	200	60	100		
Fetal haemoglobin,	0	63	0	0	0
Haemoglobin A ₂	3.7	2.5	4	3.3	4.4
Haemoglobin pattern	A	AF	A	A	A

The low serum iron possibly is due to the presence of an infection when the determination was performed.

Haemoglobin A₂ contents are determined by the method of discontinuous TRIS buffer paper electrophoresis (8). The results of case 2 and 3 were controlled by Drs. K. BITES and H. LEINACER, Tübingen, Germany by starch block electrophoresis.

Family Report

Case 1 (J. A.) A 2½ year old girl from Izmir came to the outpatient department of the 2nd Internal Clinic of Istanbul Medical School because of anaemia, jaundice, lassitude and fever. According to her parents' statement she had been anaemic since early infancy. She was diagnosed as Cooley's anaemia in one hospital in Izmir. She was very pale looking girl. She had mongoloid facies and striking frontal bossing. Her sclerae were subicteric. A loud systolic murmur was heard over entire precordium. The spleen extended three fingerbreadths and the liver one fingerbreadth below the costal margin. Her haematologic findings were consistent with the diagnosis of Cooley's anaemia and summarized in table I. X-ray of the skull exhibited marked thickening of the diploe and radial striation. A bone survey demonstrated marked osteoporosis with "honey-combed" appearance around the elbow joints and there was striking osteoporosis of the bones of the hands resulting in "mosaic pattern".

Case 2, the mother of case 1 (S. A.) A 29 year old Turkish woman from Izmir was examined during the family study of her daughter J. A. She was entirely asymptomatic and apparently healthy. Her haematologic data and genetic study (fig. 1) showed

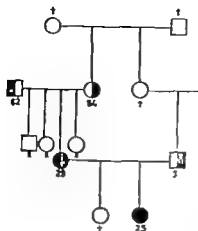


Fig 1 Genealogy of Turkish family with beta-thalassaemia (numbers

as heterozygous

the combination of hereditary elliptocytosis laboratory data are summarized in table I.

as heterozygous

Case 2, the father of case 1 (U.A.) 34 year old man from Izmir the first maternal cousin of his wife. He was entirely normal and healthy. His haematologic data showed that he had heterozygous beta-thalassaemia. His laboratory data are summarized in table I.

Case 3, the maternal grandmother of case 1, mother of case 2 (Z. S.L.) A 54 year old Turkish woman from Cyprus. Her haematologic data were consistent with the diagnosis of heterozygous beta-thalassaemia. Her laboratory data are summarized in table I.

Case 4, the maternal grandfather of case 1, father of case 2 (A. S.L.) A 62 year old Turkish man from Cyprus. His blood samples were sent to our laboratory for examination. For this reason, some of the other tests were not performed. He showed morphologic characteristic of hereditary elliptocytosis. His haematologic data are summarized in table I.

Case 5, the paternal grandfather of case 1, father of case 3 (A. S.L.) A 69 year old man from Macedonia. His blood samples were sent to our laboratory for examination. His haematologic findings were within normal limits. Therefore, his haematologic data are not included in table I.

Comment

If we analyze the haematologic findings and the results of the genetic study we suppose that the mother of our patient (case 2) has the combination of hereditary elliptocytosis with heterozygous beta-thalassaemia. The findings confirming this possibility can be divided into two groups

1 The findings showing the presence of a gene responsible for beta-thalassaemia are as follows: decreased MCV, low MCHb, the presence of target cells, microcytosis and poikilocytosis in the blood smear, decreased osmotic fragility, increased serum iron and in-

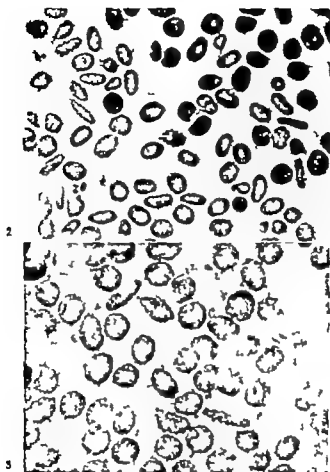


Fig 2 Photomicrograph of the blood film of case 1 showing elliptocytosis, ovalocytosis, microcytosis and polychromatophilia.

Fig 3 Photomicrograph of the blood film of case 5, father (A. M.) showing elliptocytosis and ovalocytosis.

creased haemoglobin A₂-fraction. These findings are consistent with the presence of a gene responsible for beta-thalassaemia.

2 The findings showing the presence of a gene responsible for hereditary elliptocytosis in case 2 are as follows: there was a marked elliptocytosis in the blood smear (fig 2). As it is known, thalassaemic syndromes and heterozygous thalassaemia may be associated with marked elliptocytosis. Therefore the very striking elliptocytosis in the proband can be explained by heterozygous beta-thalassaemia. The only evidence confirming the presence of a gene for hereditary elliptocytosis in the proband is the result of genetic study (fig 1).

Although one of the parents (the father) had mild stigmata of heterozygous increased haemoglobin A₂, the other (A.M.) did not exhibit the finding. On the other hand, he had the morphological features of hereditary elliptocytosis (fig. 3). The results of the genetic study were consistent with the elliptocytosis observed in the present case, and are probable for hereditary elliptocytosis.

As can be seen from case 1, the father (case 1) has all clinical manifestations of COOLIDGE'S anaemia. The striking findings were observed in the mother (case 2) and his father. The smear of the offspring. Therefore, the offspring (case 1) has homozygous elliptocytosis.

As already indicated, the mother was entirely asymptomatic, had no anaemia and did not exhibit stigmata for increased haemolysis. She was diagnosed during the clinical examination of her daughter with COOLIDGE'S anaemia. Therefore, we assume that the presence of a gene responsible for hereditary elliptocytosis in our case does not appear to potentiate the pathogenicity of the beta thalassaemia gene. According to the results obtained in our case it seems probable that the presence of one gene for beta thalassaemia and one gene for hereditary elliptocytosis in the same individual does not result in a form of congenital haemolytic anaemia caused by the interaction of these two genes. This observation is similar to those of VANDEPITTE AND LOUIS (1) and also of AVERY (2) in individuals presenting combinations of hereditary elliptocytosis with haemoglobins S and C. This fact led VANDEPITTE AND LOUIS to suppose that the haemoglobin S trait does not accentuate the clinical effects of a single gene for hereditary elliptocytosis. Nearly the same fact was observed by AVERY in two negro children who exhibited simultaneously both hereditary elliptocytosis and haemoglobin C trait.

On the other hand, two instances with the combination of hereditary elliptocytosis plus heterozygous thalassaemia described previously (3-4) were not entirely asymptomatic. The patient described by BRUMPT *et al.* (3) had rheumatoid arthralgia. The patient described by DE VRIES *et al.* (4) exhibited marked signs of increased haemolysis.

The difference in the clinical and haematologic picture found in our patient and the other two individuals with hereditary elliptocytosis plus heterozygous thalassaemia may be explained by the great variability in the expression of heterozygous thalassaemia in each case respectively

Summary

A patient presenting combination of hereditary elliptocytosis with heterozygous beta-thalassaemia is described. The genetic study showed that the mother had heterozygous beta-thalassaemia and the father had hereditary elliptocytosis. The patient was entirely asymptomatic. The difference in the clinical and haematologic picture between our case and the other two instances described previously is emphasized.

Résumé

Observation d'une malade présentant une elliptocytose héréditaire associée à une β -thalassémie hétérozygote. L'étude génétique démontra chez la mère une β -thalassémie hétérozygote et chez le père une elliptocytose héréditaire. La patiente ne présentait aucun symptôme clinique. La différence entre l'aspect clinique et hématologique de ce cas et de deux autres cas précédents est soulignée.

Zusammenfassung

Es wird über eine Patientin berichtet, die eine Kombination von hereditärer Elliptozytose mit einer heterozygoten Beta-Thalassämie aufwies. Die erbologische Untersuchung ergab bei der Mutter eine heterozygote Beta-Thalassämie und beim Vater eine hereditäre Elliptozytose. Die Patientin zeigte keine krankhaften Symptome. Es wird auf die Unterschiede des klinischen und hämatologischen Bildes zwischen diesem Fall und den früher beschriebenen Fällen hingewiesen.

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Studies of Basophils

Variations with Age and Sex*

(With Plate I)

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Since the introduction of the direct chamber count of basophilic leukocytes by MOORE AND JAMES in 1953 (1) several observations have been published on changes in the number of circulating basophils under physiologic conditions (2). However little information has been available until now on spontaneous variations in normal basophil morphology. ARNETH in 1921 (3) applied to basophils his classification of neutrophilic leukocytes based on nuclear morphology and found that among these cells also "herrscht die schönste Ordnung". Due to the small number of human basophils and difficulties in identifying the nucleus under the granules ARNETH's method did not find any application. JUCKER in 1943 (4) reported that the morphology of rabbit basophils was too varied for classification.

In previous work (5) with normal human subjects fluctuations of basophil numbers were found to be preceded, accompanied and occasionally replaced by changes in the position of the granules in the cytoplasm. These changes were correlated with alternating phases of physiologic activity (menstrual cycle) and it was concluded that the various cell types represented basophils of different age. Cells in which the granules had a peripheral distribution were interpreted as the youngest of circulating basophils, those forms in which some of the granules traversed the center of the cell between the lobes of the usually bilobed nucleus represented an intermediate age group and basophils in which the granules covered the cell surface and thereby partially or completely obscured the nucleus were considered as the most mature. In the present study this classification was extended to rabbit basophils and evidence is sub-

*This work was supported by Public Health Service Grant HE 07362 National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland (USA)

mitted on the basis of basophil numbers and of cell age differentiation through basophil morphology that in man and rabbit a sex linked difference in basophil activity exists.

Materials and Methods

Samples of capillary blood from 299 male and 395 female adult humans and venous blood from 13 male and 32 female rabbits were used. Total basophil numbers were counted in Spetz-Levy counting chambers. For human blood Inagaki diluting fluid (6) was used and for rabbit blood solution of the following composition: 0.05% aqueous solution of toluidine blue in 1.5% acetic acid. Basophil morphology was studied in smears stained with Wright's, Papanicolaou or Unowitz toluidine blue stain. Human and rabbit basophils were classified according to the position of the granules as P^o (peripheral) I^o (intermediate) and U^o (uniform) cell types. The term statistical significance refers to the 95% level of confidence.

In the chamber counts Inagaki's fluid permitted good identification of human basophils, the diluting fluid developed by us gave better differentiation of rabbit basophils. Satisfactory staining of human and rabbit basophils in the blood smear was obtained with the Wright stain. Comparative counts of basophils in smears stained with one of the three stains gave almost identical results.

Results

Basophil Numbers

a) *Human subjects* In two populations consisting of 311 young adults and 193 old people simple white cell and basophil counts were made. The young subjects were healthy white male and female undergraduate college students with an average age of 18 years, the geriatric subjects were over sixty five years old predominantly white men and women without overt signs of chronic and no acute illnesses. In mean numbers of basophils per mm³ blood and per hundred white cells student females exceeded student males, student females exceeded geriatric females, geriatric males exceeded geriatric females and geriatric males did not differ from student males.

In mean numbers of white cells per mm³ student females exceeded student males, geriatric females exceeded student females, geriatric males exceeded student males and geriatric males did not differ from geriatric females.

The differences were statistically significant the tests used were standard t tests. The results are summarized in table I.

b) *Rabbits* In 5 male and 6 female adult rabbits a total of 493 white cell and basophil counts were made. The mean counts for each rabbit were computed and these means were used in obtaining the group means which were tested. Female adult rabbits

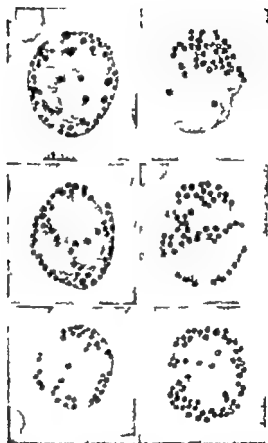


Fig. 1 Basophil morphology and cell age. Left row human basophils, right row rabbit basophils. From top to bottom juvenile ("P") intermediate ("I") and mature ("U") cell types.

Table I

Means of white cells and basophil numbers in 304 human subjects compared by age and sex.

	Students		Oxford Subjects	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Numbers of subjects	112	199	97	96
Mean no of WBC per mm ³	6,240	6,613	3,218	7,123
Coefficient of variation, %	19.0	26.2	33.2	31.0
Mean no of basophils per mm ³	24.1	27.2	24.1	20.6
Coefficient of variation, %	41.2	45.2	44.1	50.8
Mean percentage of basophils	0.38	0.42	0.57	0.31
Coefficient of variation,	4.0	4.4	4.7	5.0

Coefficient of variation = $\frac{\text{standard deviation} \times 100}{\text{mean}}$

exceeded male adults in the mean numbers of basophils per mm³ and per 100 white cells. Due to wide variations in the individual counts no statistical significance could be attached to these differences.

In 11 mature and 12 immature rabbits the mean numbers of basophils were computed in a total number of 756 counts. In mean numbers of basophils mature female rabbits exceeded immature females, mature males did not differ from immature males and immature females did not differ from immature males. The difference between immature and mature female rabbits was significant.

Basophil Morphology

Diameters of human basophils ranged between 12.0 and 15.2 microns with an average of 12.6 microns. In the rabbit the measurements were between 10.4 and 15.2 and 13.2 average. Rabbit basophils give with panoptic stains a stronger purple metachromatic colour than human basophils. Young human and rabbit basophils differ in the smear from the peripheral blood in their morphology. In the "P" (peripheral) type of human basophils of nucleus usually holds a central position in the cytoplasm and the granules surround it. In the rabbit the cell of corresponding age has its nucleus in an eccentric position and the granules are massed at the other side of the cell. In both species, the round or only slightly indented nucleus is clearly visible only few if any granules cover it. The "I" (intermediate) and the "U" (uniform) cell types of human and rabbit basophils closely resemble each other (figs. 1 and 2)

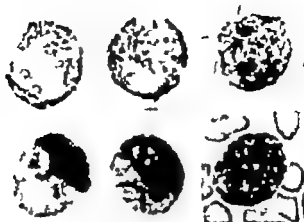


Fig Basophil morphology and cell age. Top row human basophils bottom row rabbit basophils. From left to right P, I and U forms.

Cell type and size The diameters of 400 rabbit basophils selected at random were measured in the stained smear and the results compared with the position of the nucleus.

Cell type	P	I	U	All three types
Mean cell	13.9	13.2	12.6	13.4 microns

The difference in cell diameters between peripheral and uniform cell types was significant.

Position of the Granules and Sex

a) *Humans* In 1451 basophils from 90 male and 100 female healthy human adults positions of the granules were compared with the following results. 1 Adult females exceeded adult males in the mean percentage of P and I forms. 2 During the menstrual cycle adult females had twice as many basophils of the "P" type shortly before or at the beginning of the menstrual bleeding as in the first post menstrual week. The results are summarized in table II

Table II
Position of the granules of basophils in 190 human adults.

	Cell types per 100 basophils		
	P	I	U
Males	17	18	65
Females	18.5	30	51.5
first week after menstruation	13	52	35
last week after menstruation	26	28	46

The differences were significant in all groups.

b) *Rabbits* The position of the granules in 2054 basophils were compared between 5 male and 5 female adult rabbits. Adult female rabbits had a significantly higher percentage of basophils of the P⁺ and "I" type than adult male animals (table III)

Table III
Position of granules of basophils in adult rabbits.

	Cell types per 100 basophils		
	P	I	U
Males	6.6	18.1	75.3
Females	8.5	23.4	66.1

The differences between male and female rabbits were highly significant ($p < 0.01$) for each group.

In one male and one female immature rabbit the positions of the granules were compared in 449 cells. No statistical difference was found in the relative frequency of the P⁺ type cell between the two animals.

Discussion

Basophil numbers The data submitted suggest that the number of human and rabbit basophils in the peripheral blood are influenced by sex and age. Young female human adults had higher means of basophils than young males of the same age. Among geriatric subjects the ratio was inverted here the female subjects had lower means than their male counterparts. While in the rabbits the groups of animals studied were of a different composition than the human populations, the results were equally suggestive of a sex linked difference in the levels of basophils in this animal. Here it was the sexually mature female which had higher means of basophils than the immature female animal. In the two widely different age groups of human male adults the means of the basophils were identical in spite of different levels of white cell numbers. In the rabbit immature and mature male animals showed no significant differences. In the mature animals it was the female which had the higher means but as BOSKILA (7) had observed, due to the wide variations in the individual counts these differences were not significant. Previous investigators (8) who studied smaller and less homogeneous human populations did not find any sex linked differences with the exception of ANGELI et al. (9) They obtained similar results among 40 geriatric subjects, the females had significantly

lower numbers of basophils. The authors considered the possibility of a relation between basophils and female hormonal activity.

Basophil morphology For the study of basophils in the stained smear it is essential that fixing and staining be combined in one single process and that in the first stage of staining a completely waterfree technique be used. Otherwise due to their solubility in alcohol and water part of the granule contents will be washed out. Lack of such a water free technique may have been responsible for the differences GRAF AND SWENSSON (10) found between basophil numbers in smears stained with PAPPENHEIM or toluidine blue.

Estimation of cell age by the shape of the nucleus of basophils in the lege artis stained smear is often impossible because the granules are numerous, gross and cover the nucleus. Frequently the lobules of the nucleus are folded over each other giving the impression that it is compact and round. The position of the nucleus its shape and its size in relation to cell volume determine to a large extent the position of the granules. Therefore, in using the different positions of the granules for the estimation of cell age one follows in reality ARNETT'S stages of nuclear development. In addition to the nucleus the number of granules may influence their position. In the bone marrow the earliest identifiable stage of basophil development the promyelocyte, has few granules. Their number increases during cell maturation and appears to be greatest in the mature U type basophil. But in the peripheral blood other factors besides cell age determine the number of granules. One therefore, may find mature basophils in which a few granules are spread over the whole cell surface. That basophils with their granules at the cell periphery are the youngest of normal circulating basophils and correspond to the metamyelocytes or juveniles of the neutrophils can be deduced from the resemblance to their immediate predecessor the basophilic myelocyte. This latter cell, however when seen in the bone marrow smears has the nucleus frequently in an excentric position while the juvenile or "P" form of human basophils has a central nucleus. In the rabbit, on the other hand basophilic myelocyte and juvenile P form have both an excentric nucleus (figs. 1 and 2).

Young leukocytes are usually larger than older cells. The greater diameters of rabbit basophils of the "P" type and the fact that in human and rabbit they constituted the smallest group of circulating basophils point towards their being the youngest normal baso-

phils of the peripheral blood. Shift to the left with an increase in "P" and "I" types of basophils occurred frequently during intercurrent diseases of the rabbits. They preceded or accompanied rises in total basophilic numbers. Only on two occasions, during a fatal illness a shift to younger basophils was seen during a falling total basophil count.

Among 1500 human basophils from normal subjects 15% were of the "P" type, and 28% of the "I" type. Among over 2000 rabbit basophils the corresponding proportions were 7 and 22%. One of the reasons for the permanent presence of a higher proportion of young basophils than of young neutrophils in the blood stream is the small number of basophils. Because of a smaller supply base the need for replacement of basophils results in the release of more immature forms from the bone marrow. For the same reason the shift to younger forms is more pronounced among human basophils than in rabbit blood because man has much less basophils than the rabbit.

Female sexual maturity seems to be one of the factors which influence basophil economy. The higher means of basophils and their more rapid turnover in young mature female humans and mature female rabbits point in this direction. There is further evidence which correlates quantitative and qualitative changes in basophils with different degrees of ovarian activity (11). In addition there are other endocrine systems whose functional state produces alterations in the levels of circulating basophils. The effects of the secretions of thyroid and suprarenal cortex have been studied and are well substantiated (2). The data presented in this study show that the basophil differential count is a more sensitive indicator of basophil movements than their numbers alone. Alterations in basophil morphology may therefore, be watched with profit for the study of changes in basophil economy under physiologic conditions.

Summary

Numbers and morphology of circulating basophils of 694 human subjects and 45 rabbits were examined. The position of the granules in the basophils was used to determine cell age. Young adult human females had higher mean of basophil numbers than the males in the same age group. Geriatric females had lower means than their male counterparts. Sexually mature female rabbits had higher average number of basophils than immature females or mature and immature male animals. Basophil differential counts showed that young adult female humans and mature female rabbits had the fastest turnover of basophils among the groups examined.

Résumé

On étudia le nombre et la morphologie des basophiles circulants chez 694 personnes et chez 45 lapins. L'âge des cellules fut déterminé d'après la localisation des granules dans les basophiles. En moyenne on trouva chez les femmes jeunes plus de basophiles que chez les hommes du même âge. Chez les femmes âgées on en trouva moins. Chez les lapines pubères on trouva plus de basophiles que chez les lapines impubères et que chez les lapines pubères et impubères. Le compte différentiel démontre que dans les groupes étudiés le turnover le plus intense se trouve chez les femmes jeunes et chez les lapines pubères.

Zusammenfassung

Bei 694 Versuchspersonen und 45 Kaninchen wurden Zahl und Morphologie der zirkulierenden Basophilen untersucht. Die Lage der Granula in den Basophilen wurde zur Bestimmung des Zellalters herangezogen. Jugendliche Frauen zeigten höhere Durchschnittswerte der Basophilenzahl als Männer derselben Altersklasse. Im Greisenalter waren Frauen niedrigere Werte auf als Männer. Geschlechtsreife weibliche Kaninchen hatten eine höhere Basophilenzahl als unreife Weibchen oder reife und unreife Männchen. Differenzialzählungen ergaben, daß der Umsatz der Basophilen in den untersuchten Gruppen bei jugendlichen Frauen und reifen weiblichen Kaninchen am größten war.

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Studies on the Antigens of Human Red Cell Ghosts Differences in the S Protein of the Adult and the Newborn

By NICOLETTA VULPIS

In the preceding paper (6) it has been shown that human adult S protein is a mixture of three antigens that stimulate, in rabbits, the production of precipitating antibodies specific for each antigen. This was determined by the quantitative precipitin test and immunological gel diffusion precipitation technique. It seemed desirable to investigate further the properties of the S protein especially in order to establish similarities or differences compared with the S protein derived from stromata of the normal new-born infant. The present investigation was undertaken in an attempt to clarify this point.

Methods

Preparation of S protein solutions: The new-born S protein (SECB) was prepared from haemolysate obtained by mixing 5 specimens of A positive cord blood and using essentially the same method described by Moskowitz et al. (2). Two samples of normal adult S protein (SEN₁ and SEN₂) were also prepared. The S protein concentration was estimated by microkjeldahl analysis, assuming nitrogen content of 14.7%. SEN and SECB were then diluted with distilled water to give final product containing 30 mg/ml.

Preparation of antisera. Antisera to SECB (anti₁-SECB and anti₂-SECB) and SEN (anti-SEN₁) were produced by immunizing young rabbits by published procedure (6). A total dose of 18.50 mg of SECB and SEN was injected into each rabbit. Non-specific antibodies to Hb and serum proteins were removed by addition of small amounts of haemoglobin and normal serum. Crystalline oxyhaemoglobin was obtained by using the same method described previously (4). The titer of the antisera was determined by the *interfacial* technique. A gamma-globulin fraction which was obtained by bringing specific volume of antiserum to 1/2 saturation with ammonium sulfate as described (3) was used as the source of antibodies in some experiments.

Immunological techniques: The procedure followed for the quantitative precipitin test was carried out as previously described (1). Micro-double diffusion plate tests in agar gel were set up on microscope slides using smaller cutters than they are in Petri dishes.

This work was carried out while the author was a NATO grantee in Germany.

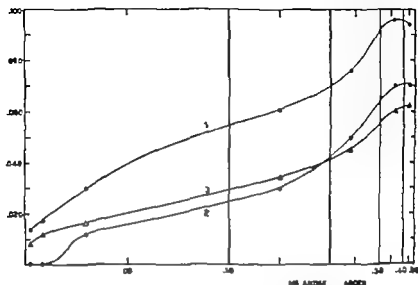


Fig. 3. Quantitative immunochemical curves showing cross reaction of SEN with the homologous anti-SEN serum (curve 1) and heterologous anti-SECB and anti-SECB immune sera (curve 2 and 3 respectively)

with SECB these lines were not continuous, indicating that serologically SEN₁ and SECB are unrelated. On the other hand, the anti₁₊₂-SECB and anti-SEN₁ sera gave two continuous lines with SECB and only one continuous line with SEN₁. It can be presumed that both SEN₁ and SECB contain two common *identical* antigens moreover SEN₁ contains a third antigen by which it is characterized. It is also possible that the two common identical antigens are not present in the same amount in SEN and SECB likely one of these occurs in SEN in such small quantities that it may not be detected by the anti₁₊₂-SECB immune serum.

Absorption procedures confirmed these observations. Fig 5a shows that the SEN₁-antiserum when exhaustively absorbed with

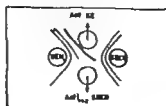


Fig. 4. Schematic representation of double-diffusion test showing SEN and SECB to be partially identical but SEN to have an antigenic determinant not present on SECB.



Fig. 5. Comparative double-diffusion analysis after absorption with SEN and SECB. a) When anti-SEN₁ is absorbed with SEN no precipitin band develops neither with SEN nor with SECB; when absorbed with SECB only the uncommon antigenic determinant is shown. b) The precipitin bands developed by anti-SEN₁-SECB with SEN and SECB disappear after absorption with SEN. c) The same results are obtained when anti-SEN₁-SECB is absorbed with SECB.

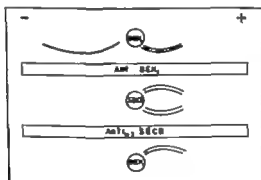


Fig. 6. Comparative immunoelectrophoretic analysis of SEN using anti-SEN₁ and anti-SEN₁-SECB immune sera. SECB contains two immunoelectrophoretic fractions serologically identical with two of the three SEN₁ fractions.

SEN₁ was no longer capable of reaction with either SEN or SECB the same immunoserum absorbed with SECB formed with SEN₁ one band alone. Besides, the anti-SEN₁-SECB serum absorbed with SEN₁ or SECB did not give any precipitin reaction neither with SEN₁ nor with SECB (fig. 5b, c).

These results are in close agreement with the findings from immunoelectrophoresis which revealed that both SEN₁ and SECB contain two equal components in the alpha₂-globulin zone, whereas SEN contains a third component situated in the gamma-globulin region (figs. 6, 7a, b, c). No differences were observed when the gamma-globulin preparation was used for comparative study.

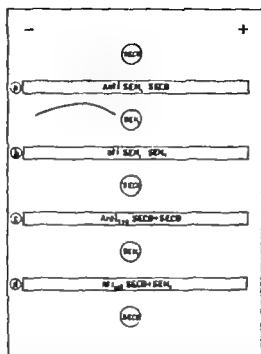


Fig. 7. Comparative immunoelectrophoretic analysis of SEN and SECB using absorbed anti-SEN and anti- γ -SECB immune sera. a) After absorption with SECB anti-SEN₁ produces only with SEN₁ single precipitation band. b) After absorption with SEN₁ no precipitation band is formed neither with SEN₁ nor with SECB. c) and d) No precipitation reaction is also obtained when anti- γ -SECB is absorbed with SECB or SEN₁.

Comments

The results reported here suggest that the adult normal S protein differs antigenically from the S protein of the normal newborn infant. Using antisera as an analytic agent, the former can be distinguished from the latter by a third antigenic constituent whose line of reaction with homologous antiserum crosses clearly the lines given by the newborn S protein in agar diffusion tests, thus indicating that serologically they are unrelated.

The question whether this antigenic component is already present at birth but in such low concentration that it escapes detection or it appears only after birth as maturity approaches, has not at present a definite answer. Further work must be done before any conclusion can be made.

Acknowledgments: The author wishes to express her sincere appreciation for the hospitality of Prof. L. HENRIEVILLE and Prof. H. SCHUMACHER, whose helpful discussions and critical suggestions have been a great stimulation to this work.

Summary

By means of immunoelectrophoresis and agar-gel double diffusion it was observed that adult S protein differs from the normally occurring S protein of the red cells of new-born infants. At birth only two antigenic determinants are detectable. As maturity approaches a third determinant appears that was shown to have an antigenic specificity.

Résumé

On peut démontrer par les méthodes d'immuno-électrophorèse et de double diffusion dans un milieu gélifié (agar) que la protéine S des adultes diffère des protéines S normalement trouvées dans les hématies du nouveau-né. À la naissance on ne peut discerner que 2 déterminants antigéniques. À l'âge mûr un troisième déterminant apparaît de pouvoir antigénique spécifique.

Zusammenfassung

Mit Hilfe der Immunelektrophorese und der Doppeldiffusion im Agar-Gel konnte gezeigt werden, daß das S-Prottein des Erwachsenen sich von dem normalerweise vorkommenden S-Prottein der Erythrozyten des Neugeborenen unterscheidet. Bei der Geburt lassen sich nur zwei Antigen-Determinanten nachweisen. Bei Erreichen der Reife erscheint eine dritte Determinante die Antigen-Spezifität besitzt.

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Weitere Untersuchungen zum Serumproteinfilm an der Oberfläche normaler menschlicher Erythrocyten

Von F. GRÄGLICH UND H. E. MÜLLER

Wie wir in vorhergehenden Arbeiten (1, 2, 3) zeigen konnten ist die Oberfläche normaler menschlicher Erythrocyten von einem Plasma-proteinfilm überzogen, der sich in seiner Zusammensetzung wesentlich von der Zusammensetzung der Proteine im Plasma unterscheidet. Weiterhin verschieben sich diese Proteinrelationen unter pathologischen Bedingungen für einzelne Krankheitsbilder in charakteristischer Weise (4).

Die Untersuchungen waren an den rein erhaltlichen Human-Plasma-proteinen Albumin, Fibrinogen, gamma-Globulin, alpha₂-Makroglobulin, Präalbumin und Transferrin durchgeführt worden, außerdem an Lipoprotein, das durch Gel-filtration von Human-Serum leicht in reiner Form darstellbar ist (5).

Bei den so untersuchten Proteinen konnte eine mögliche Denaturierung, bedingt durch ihre Kristallisation, längere Lagerungsdauer und Markierung mit ¹²⁵Iod nicht ganz ausgeschlossen werden. Dem heraus bleibaren Etwand gegen die Ergebnisse dieser Studien machten wir in der vorliegenden Arbeit folgendermaßen zu begreifen. Das zur Untersuchung gelangende Human-Serum wurde unter den denkbar schonendsten Bedingungen bei niedriger Temperatur und in möglichst kurzer Zeit (innerhalb von 24 Stunden mit ¹²⁵Iod markiert und elektrophoretisch in einzelne Fraktionen aufgetrennt, mit denen die Untersuchungen am Proteinfilm der Erythrocytenoberfläche durchgeführt wurden. Der Vorteil dieser Untersuchung liegt in der schonenden Protein-aufbereitung und in der Tatsache, daß alle Serumbestandteile zu 100% zur Untersuchung kommen, ihr Nachteil ist in der geringen Aufreinigung in einzelne denaturierte Proteine zu sehen.

Das Untersuchungs-schema bestand in Anlehnung an die früher durchgeführten Arbeiten in einer Isotopenverdünnungsanalyse des untersuchten Vollblutes, das mit den ¹²⁵Iod-markierten Proteinen bis zur Gleichgewichtseinstellung im Gleichgewicht und an der Erythrocytenoberfläche adsorbierten Proteinmolekülen inkubiert und danach einer Waschprozedur unterworfen wurde. Im Verlauf der einzelnen Waschvorgänge nimmt die Menge der in der Lösung frei gehaltenen Proteine schneller ab als die Menge der an der Erythrocytenoberfläche adsorptiv gebundenen Proteine. Es und für erhaltene Proteine erhaltend schnell und bei erhaltender Konzentration

eine sogenannte Gleichgewichtsmenge (P_0) erreicht. Sie ist konventionell so definiert, daß im Überstand und an der Erythrocytenoberfläche gleich große Aktivitäten und damit gleich große Proteinmengen vorhanden sein sollen. Die Gleichgewichtsmenge (P_0) wird in μ der Ausgangsmenge der jeweiligen Proteinfraction ausgedrückt. Desberüßliche theoretische Ableitungen sind an anderer Stelle ausführlich erörtert (2). Aus dem relativen Vergleich der Gleichgewichtsmengen der einzelnen Serumfraktionen ergibt sich die Zusammensetzung des Proteofilmes an der Erythrocytenoberfläche (P_E). Die Relation zu den entsprechenden Proteinfractionen im Serum (P_S) wird durch Ab- bzw. Abreicherungsfaktoren ($F = P_E/P_S$) ausgedrückt.

Die Untersuchungen an reinen Proteinen zeigten eine starke Anreicherung in der Reihenfolge Präalbumin, Lipoprotein gamma-Globulin, einiger stark von Fibrinogen und alpha₂-Makroglobulin und schließlich eine Abreicherung von Transferrin und Albumin.

Die vorliegende Arbeit beschäftigt sich mit Proteinfractionen, die durch Vertikalelektrophorese gewonnen wurden. Nur gamma Globulin und Albumin konnten dabei in reiner Form hergestellt werden, wie die durchgeführten Immunelektrophoresen zeigen (Abb. 2). Im übrigen liegen Mischungen verschiedener Proteine vor. Deshalb können die Ergebnisse nur an Hand der schon früher gewonnenen Aussagen interpretiert werden. Sie bestätigen die vor hergegangenen Untersuchungen und zeigen, daß die mößliche Denaturierung nur eine sekundäre Rolle spielte.

Material und Methode

Human-Serum wurde nach einer hoch modifizierten Methode von FRANKMAN und STRAUSSMAN (5) mit ¹²⁵Iod (Radiochemical Centre, Amersham) markiert. Die Entfernung des umgebenden Jods geschah durch Behandeln mit AgCl₂ (zweimaliges Rößren des Serums mit gleichen Volumellen AgCl₂ während 30 min) und Durchlauf durch eine Ionenaustauscherstule mit Amberlite IR 43. Nach der AgCl₂-Behandlung betrug der freie Jodanteil noch 15 μ , nach dem Durchlauf durch die Ionenaustauscher stule weniger als 0,5 μ der Gesamtaktivität. Anschließend wurde das jodierte Serum einer Vertikalelektrophorese unterworfen (Vertikalelektrophorese-Apparatur nach einer Beckman, Modell CP angelegte Spannung: 600 V, Verdünnung des Serums 1:1 mit Dole-Puffer pH 8,6, Durchfluß 4 ml/Stunde). Alle Manipulationen wurden bei 4°C ausgeführt und dauerten insgesamt 20 Stunden. Das Serum wurde dabei in 21 Fraktionen aufgetrennt. In jeder Fraktion wurden der Proteingehalt, die Aktivität und der Anteil an freiem Jod gemessen. er lag auch nach der Durchführung der Vertikalelektrophorese nirgends über 1%.

Zur besseren Charakterisierung der einzelnen Elektrophorese-Fractionen wurde von jeder einzelnen Fraktion eine Immunelektrophorese angestellt nach der Methode von GARBAR (6) und SCHULZBERGER (7) bei 110 V, Entwicklungzeit 3 Stunden, Präzipitation durch Antikuman-Serum der Fa. Hyland.

Blut der Blutgruppe 0 eines gesunden, jungen, männlichen Spenders wurde auf ACD abgenommen (Ery 4.18 Millionen/zum Hämatokrit 37% Buret-Wert 5,6 g%) und in 21 Proben zu je 5 ml aufgeteilt. Die einzelnen Proben wurden mit den 21 Fraktionen des ¹²⁵Iod-markierten Serums 2 Stunden bei Raumtemperatur inkubiert, wobei zwei gleiche Aktivitäten, aber verschiedene Proteinmengen eingesetzt wurden. Sie wurden folgender Waschprozedur unterworfen. Das mit ¹²⁵Iod-Protein inkubierte Blut

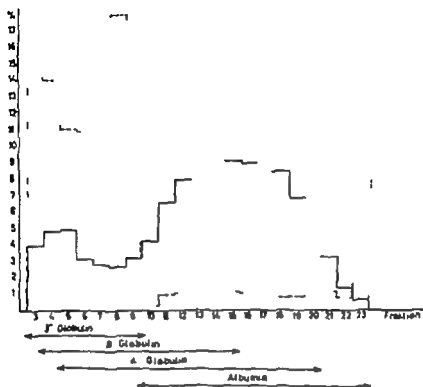


Abb. 1. Die Zusammensetzung der Proteine im Plasma (ausgesogen) und an der Erythrocytenoberfläche (gewaschen).

wurde mit 0,15 M Saccharose-Phosphat Puffer pH 7,2 und physiolog. NaCl-Lösung (1:1) auf 10 ml aufgefüllt, 3 mm bei 1200 g zentrifugiert und vom Überstand jeweils 5 ml abpipettiert. Nach Zugabe von wiederum 5 ml Phosphatpuffer wurde die Erythrocytenaususpension gründlich durchgeschüttelt und erneut zentrifugiert. Die Waschprozedur wurde 5mal durchgeführt und in dem gewonnenen Waschüberstand der Wert der γ -Globulin-Proteine gemessen. Nach beendeter 5ter Waschung wurde die Wäsche mit dem restlichen Erythrocytensediment ebenfalls bestimmt.

Ergebnis

Unter Berücksichtigung des sich während der einzelnen Waschvorgänge verändernden Hämatokritwertes (2) läßt sich er rechnen, welche Proteinmenge nach jeder einzelnen Waschung noch an der Erythrocytenoberfläche adsorptiv gebunden ist. Die Gleichgewichtsmenge (1a) der Tab. I Spalte 2 ist also dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß im Überstand und im Erythrocytensediment gleiche Proteinmengen vorhanden sind. Im Gegensatz zu vorhergehenden Arbeiten wurden in der vorliegenden Untersuchung die Gleich

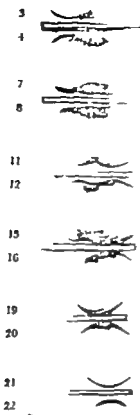


Abb. 2. Immunoelektrophoresen der in der präparativen Elektrophorese gewonnenen Serumfraktionen.

gewichtsmengen (PG) an adsorbiertem Protein nur auf das Erythrocytensediment allein und nicht auch auf die überstehende Lösung bezogen, die bei 5 ml Gesamtvolumen immer noch vorhanden ist. Aus diesem Grund sind die neu erhaltenen PG Werte nicht völlig mit den Werten der vorhergegangenen Publikationen zu vergleichen.

Setzt man die Gleichgewichtsmengen PG aller 21 Fraktionen gleich 100 %, so lassen sich Prozentwerte errechnen die der Serumzusammensetzung an der Erythrocytenoberfläche entsprechen (PE

der Tab. I Spalte 3) Der Quotient aus P_E und der prozentualen Zusammensetzung des Serums (P_P der Tab. I Spalte 4) gibt den An- oder Abreicherungsfaktor F an, der die Verschiebungen zwischen der Zusammensetzung des Serums und der Zusammensetzung des Serumproteinfilmes an der Erythrocytenoberfläche kennzeichnet.

In Tab. I und Abb. 1 sind die entsprechenden Werte zusammengestellt. In Abb. 1 ist außerdem die Bandenbreite der einzelnen Proteingruppen aus der Vertikalelektrophorese angegeben wie sie durch immunoelektrophoretische Untersuchungen gewonnen wurden (Abb. 2) Hieraus ebenso wie aus Abb. 1 ist zu erkennen daß praktisch nur die ersten gamma-Globulin und die letzten Albumin Fraktionen in der Immunoelektrophorese reine Proteine enthalten Alle übrigen Fraktionen bestehen aus Mischungen von mehr oder weniger vielen Eiweißkörpern

Tabelle I

Die Proteinzusammensetzung im Serum und an der Erythrocytenoberfläche

1	2	3	4	5
Frak. Nr.	Gleichgewichtsmenge P_D	Protein- gehalt an Ery P_E	Protein- gehalt im Serum P_P	Anreicherungsfaktor $F = P_E/P_P$
3	0,236	17,03	3,935	4,33
4	0,194	14,02	4,786	2,93
5	0,153	11,03	4,893	2,26
6	0,151	10,91	3,191	3,42
7	0,100	7,23	2,766	2,61
8	0,249	17,99	2,659	6,77
9	0,077	5,56	3,191	1,74
10	0,004	0,29	4,255	0,07
11	0,013	0,94	6,596	0,14
12	0,014	1,01	7,978	0,13
13	—	—	—	—
14	—	—	—	—
15	0,016	1,11	9,149	0,13
16	0,015	1,08	9,042	0,12
17	—	—	—	—
18	0,010	0,72	8,11	0,08
19	0,011	0,79	6,914	0,11
20	—	—	—	—
21	0,016	1,16	3,297	0,35
22	0,011	0,79	1,382	0,57
3	0,114	8,54	0,638	1,39

Diskussion

Bei der Interpretation der vorliegenden Ergebnisse muß auf die Resultate der früher veröffentlichten Arbeiten zurückgegriffen werden. Zum besseren Verständnis seien hier die entsprechenden Werte (3) in Tab. II angeführt. Aus Tab. I und Abb. 1 ergibt sich eine deutliche Anreicherung von gamma-Globulin an der Erythrocytenoberfläche. Sie ist charakteristischerweise in der reinsten gamma-Globulin-Fraktion (Fraktion Nr. 3) am größten und sinkt etwa in dem gleichen Maß wie andere Proteine (immunelektrophoretisch Proteine der beta- und alpha-Globulin-Reihen) in den Fraktionen erscheinen. Der hohe Peak bei Fraktion 8 ist nur unter

Tabelle II

Die Proteinzusammensetzung des Plasmas und der Erythrocytenoberfläche einiger definierter Proteine.

1	2	3	4
Protein	Proteinanteil am Ery P _E	Proteinanteil am Plasma P	Anreicherungs- faktor F = P _E /P
Albumin	7,51	60	0,13
gamma-Globulin	38,72	16	2,42
Fibrinogen	8,42	4	2,11
Lipoproteine	29,17	5	5,83
alpha ₂ -Makro-globulin	5,46	4,5	1,21
Präalbumin	4,57	0,5	9,13
Transferrin	0,79	5	0,16

Zugrundlegung der Ergebnisse aus Tab. II zu verstehen. Vermutlich handelt es sich an dieser Stelle um alpha- oder beta-Lipoproteine, u. U. auch Mucoproteine, die eine so starke Anreicherung an der Erythrocytenoberfläche erfahren. Dafür spricht der hohe Anreicherungsfaktor F für Lipoproteine aus Tab. II, doch kann ein strenger Beweis dafür bei der Vielzahl der immunelektrophoretisch in dieser Fraktion nachgewiesenen Proteine nicht erbracht werden. Im Übrigen scheinen sowohl in der Gruppe der alpha- wie auch der beta-Globuline keine Einzelproteine vorzuliegen, die eine extrem starke Anreicherung an der Erythrocytenoberfläche erfahren. Das wird durch die Einzelbeobachtungen an alpha₂-Makroglobulin und am Transferrin der Tab. II bestätigt. Ebenso wie am Reinalbumin der Tab. II konnte auch jetzt an Elektrophoresefraktionen die Abreicherung von Albumin an der Erythrocytenoberfläche gegenüber der Konzentration im Serum bestätigt

werden. Großes Interesse beansprucht der hohe Anstieg der Proteine aus der Fraktion 23. Ein Vergleich mit den Werten der Tab. II berechtigt zu der Annahme, daß es sich hier um einen Präalbumin Effekt handelt. Wie Immunelektrophoresen mit reinem Präalbumin zeigten, spricht das verwendete Antihuman-Serum nicht auf Präalbumin an, deshalb erscheint in der entsprechenden Immunelektrophorese keine Präalbumin-Bande. Daß es sich andererseits nicht um einen Albumin Effekt handeln kann, wird durch die vorhergehenden, immunoelektrophoretisch ebenfalls reinen Albumin Faktoren bestätigt.

Abschließend läßt sich auf Grund der vorliegenden Ergebnisse folgendes feststellen. Die Zusammensetzung des Proteinfilmes an der Erythrocytenoberfläche unterscheidet sich wesentlich von der Zusammensetzung im Serum. Dabei werden gamma-Globulin, Lipoprotein und Präalbumin in besonders starkem Maß an der Erythrocytenoberfläche angereichert, während die Erythrocytenoberfläche an Albumin deutlich verarmt. Die An- und Abreicherungsfaktoren entsprechen größenordnungsmäßig den bereits in früheren Arbeiten gefundenen Werten.

Fraulein E. BUDDEMEIER danken wir für wertvolle Mitarbeit. Der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft danken wir für ihre Unterstützung.

Zusammenfassung

Auf der Erythrocytenoberfläche befindet sich ein adsorbiertes, gebundenes Plasma-Protein-Film. Seine prozentuale Zusammensetzung zeigt gegenüber der Zusammensetzung der im Plasma frei gelösten Proteine wesentliche Verschiebungen. Gamma-Globulin, Lipoprotein und Präalbumin sind an der Erythrocytenoberfläche erhöht vorhanden, Albumin erniedrigt.

Summary

Bound to the surface of erythrocytes by adsorption is a film of plasma proteins. Its composition differs considerably from that of the free plasma proteins. gamma globulin, lipoprotein and prealbumin are present in increased quantities on the surface of the erythrocytes and albumin is reduced.

Résumé

On trouve adsorbé à la surface des hématies, un film de protéines plasmatiques. La répartition des protéines de ce film diffère de celle des protéines plasmatiques libres. On y trouve une augmentation des gamma-globulines, des lipoprotéines et des pré-albumines et une diminution des albumines.

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Normal Fibrinolytic System in Two Cases of Familial Hypofibrinogenemia*

By LOUISE LANO PHILLIPS** VALIJA SKRODELL AND JAMES A. WOLFF

Although an absence of spontaneously active fibrinolysin has been frequently noted in congenital fibrinogen deficiencies, little information has been reported on the other factors of the fibrinolytic system. ASTRUP (1) using his heated fibrin plate method has recently demonstrated normal levels of profibrinolysin in the euglobulin precipitate from the serum of a child with congenital afibrinogenemia.

Congenital afibrinogenemia, a rare abnormality of the coagulation mechanism (2-7) usually manifests itself early in life appears to be a hereditary recessive trait with strong familial tendency and is not sex linked, although males seem to be more frequently affected than females. Often there have been consanguaneous marriages in the families of such patients.

Reports on congenital hypofibrinogenemia are less frequent although the incidence is probably higher than that of afibrinogenemia (8-13). Many patients with congenital afibrinogenemia have one or both parents or siblings with fibrinogen levels below 200 mg. (2, 3, 4). Clinical manifestations of congenital hypofibrinogenemia are much less severe or may even be absent so that the condition may be recognized only when specifically looked for.

This work was supported by Grant number E. 1063 of the Health Research Council of the City of New York and H-1512 from the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

Recipient of Investigatorship of the Health Research Council of the City of New York under contract number E 143.

This report presents two cases of familial hypofibrinogenemia, presumably genetically determined, occurring in a father and his son. Particularly studied was the fibrinolytic enzyme system in relation to the hypofibrinogenemia.

Methods

Fibrinogen was determined by the method of RATNOFF AND MENZIE (14), *free profibrinolysin* by hydrolysis of casein by plasma activated by streptokinase (15) *total profibrinolysin* by hydrolysis of casein by an isoelectric precipitate from the same plasma and activated with streptokinase (15).

Inhibitors were calculated from the difference between total and free profibrinolysin (15). These figures represent inhibition of both the activation of the profibrinolysin and hydrolysis by the fibrinolysin resulting from the activation.

Clot time was determined by observation of asexually diluted plasma clots using modified Coors' method (16).

Euglobulin clotting time was recorded as the clotting time in seconds of the re-dissolved euglobulin precipitate prepared for total profibrinolysin on the addition of 0.01 ml. thrombin (1000 N. I. H. units per ml).

Other studies included Quick's prothrombin time (17) proaccelerin (factor V) by the method of STRAUSS (18); prothrombin consumption time by the method of SCHMIDT et al. (19) and the thromboplastin generation test (20).

Electrophoresis of the plasma was carried out using the Spino Model R paper electrophoresis system.

Case Histories

A. L., 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ year old white boy was referred to the Pediatric Hematology Clinic of this hospital in August 1960 for diagnosis, because routine laboratory studies in another hospital prior to scheduled tonsillectomy had revealed deficient fibrinogen level. Bleeding time, coagulation time, and liver function tests were said to be normal.

The patient had developed normally in spite of frequent upper respiratory infections since the age of one year and an allergy to dust and feathers. No overt bleeding manifestations had been observed. Circumcision and first tonsillectomy at the age of 3 years had been performed without complications or undue bleeding.

Physical examination showed a normally developed boy with no systemic abnormalities except for slight lymphoid enlargement of the posterior pharyngeal wall and tonsillar arches. No signs of an existing coagulation disorder such as petechiae, ecchymoses or excessive bruising were noted. A repeat tonsillectomy had been advised because of recurrent upper respiratory infections.

Laboratory findings on August 4, 1960 showed hemoglobin 11 g/100 ml, WBC 6,000 with normal differential count, platelets 200,000, ESR 3 mm/hr. Bleeding time 40 seconds. Lax Warr's venous clotting time 15 minutes, tourniquet test negative, fibrinogen 140 mg%. Urinalysis negative. Clot retraction was poor.

The family history showed that the only member of the family with suggestion of hemorrhagic difficulties was the patient's father, J. L. He reportedly had had several bleeding episodes during his life, after circumcision, after tonsillectomy at the age of 8, and after an operation on the nasal septum in 1944. He had also suffered stroke in 1954. His known clotting time was found to be 13 minutes.

The patient's mother, L. L., as well as his two brothers, S. L., aged 15 years, and P. L., aged 3 years, were all living and well and denied any bleeding tendency. The patient's grandparents on both sides of the family had not considered themselves "bleeders." There was no consanguinity.

A tentative diagnosis of familial hypofibrinogenemia in the patient was made. Subsequent studies confirmed the initial diagnosis.

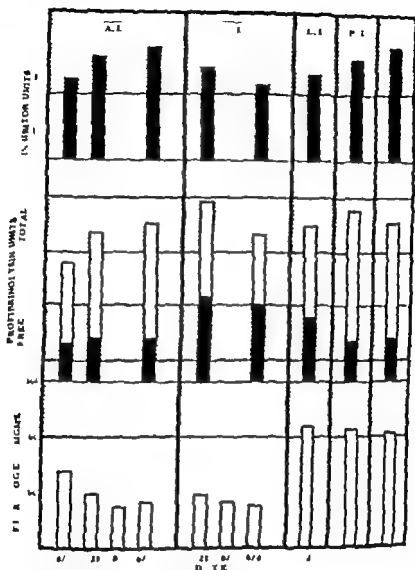


Fig. 1. Fibrinogen, prothrombin and inhibitor levels in the plasma of members of the family. Cross-hatched areas represent normal ranges for the assays.

Results

Fibrinogen levels were determined on all members of the family for the first time on September 21, 1960. The mother and both brothers of the patient had fibrinogen levels within the low normal

range, but both the patient and his father had definitely decreased levels, 98 mg / and 94 mg / respectively. Variations were minimal, indicating that the condition was persistent. The results are shown in figure 1.

Levels of free and total profibrinolysin as well as inhibitors are also shown in this figure. These determinations were made three times on the patient, twice on his father and once on the other members of the family. It should be noted that these results were within essentially normal ranges (cross hatched area) on all members of the family.

Tests for spontaneous fibrinolytic activity as measured by the modified Cook's test and for spontaneous caseinolytic activity were negative at all times in all members of the family.

Euglobulin thrombin times were consistently prolonged in the patient and his father ranging from 22 to 43 seconds, but normal in the patient's mother and brothers (10-13 seconds). Prolongation of the thrombin time may be indicative either of anti-thrombin activity or may be due to the low fibrinogen concentration in the euglobulin precipitate.

A comparison of the results of various tests of the fibrinolytic system in familial hypofibrinogenemia in these two cases and in acquired hypofibrinogenemia, as found in severe abruptio placentae, metastatic carcinoma, and surgical hemorrhage, are shown in table I. The most significant differences lie in the decreased levels of total profibrinolysin and inhibitors. Active clot lysis or caseinolysis may sometimes be demonstrated in acquired cases.

Other coagulation studies were performed on the patient and his father in October 1960 and again in June 1961 (table II). Prothrombin times were slightly prolonged on both occasions, possibly due to the low plasma fibrinogen levels. Factor V (proaccelerin)

Table I
Hypofibrinogenemia.

	Hypofibrinogenemia	
	Acquired	Familial
Fibrinogen	Low	Low
Free profibrinolysin	Normal	Normal
Total profibrinolysin	Low	Normal
Inhibitors	Low	Normal
Clot lysis	Often demonstrable	No lysis
Euglobulin thrombin time	Prolonged	Prolonged
Euglobulin lysis time	Often rapid	Normal
Spontaneous caseinolysis	Often present	Negative

Table II

		MAY 1953		JULY 1953	
		A.L.	J.L.	A.L.	J.L.
Prothrombin time, seconds, (control: 14)		17	16	17	16
Factor V		70	75	75	80
Prothrombin consumption time, seconds		17	17	20	21
Thromboplastin generation	Incubation time minutes	Coagulation time, seconds			
	1	38	34	44	26
Patient's plasma	3	17	18	15	14
Patient's serum	5	18	19	15	14
	7	19	20		
	1	16	16		
Normal plasma	3	16	17		
Patient's serum	5	18	18		
	7	18	19		
	1	21	21		
Patient's plasma	3	18	20		
Normal serum	5	21	21		
	7	27	29		
	1		22		34
Normal plasma	3		14		13
Normal serum	5		15		14
	7		17		16

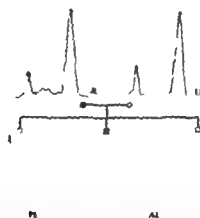


Fig. Plasma electrophoresis patterns of members of the L. family. Note the low fibrinogen peak in the plasma of the affected members—father (J. L.) and son (A. L.). Other members show normal plasma electrophoresis patterns.

determinations were normal. Prothrombin consumption times were somewhat short on both occasions. Thromboplastin generation was equivocal in both father and patient in October but normal in June. The original tests suggested a slight anti-hemophilic factor defi-

ciency of temporary nature. This was probably reflected also in the impaired prothrombin consumption. These findings agree with those of VAN CREVELD who reported a normal content, but increased lability of anti-hemophilic factor in patients with congenital afibrinogenemia (7).

Electrophoretic of plasma samples (fig. 2) gave low fibrinogen peaks in the patient and his father as opposed to the much higher peaks found in the plasma of the mother and both brothers.

Discussion

The coagulation mechanism in patients with congenital hypofibrinogenemia is usually only moderately impaired. Laboratory studies show results similar to those found in congenital afibrinogenemia, but indicate a much less severe depletion of the various clotting factors. Bleeding time may be normal or slightly prolonged, coagulation time is only moderately prolonged as is Quick's prothrombin time. Other factors—V, VII and prothrombin content—are normal. Thromboplastin generation is normal, platelet counts vary and tests for capillary fragility are normal or only slightly positive (9-13). Fibrin clots that are formed are of poor quality and IMPERATO *et al.* (11) believe that the defect may be qualitative as well as quantitative. As a rule, these patients have little tendency to spontaneous hemorrhages, such as easy bruising and epistaxis so that clinical manifestations of the lowered fibrinogen level may be absent.

Studies of the fibrinolytic mechanism provide an excellent opportunity for comparison with patients who have an acquired hypofibrinogenemia of a temporary nature, as found in association with various disease states—abruptio placentae, dead fetus syndrome, surgery or metastatic carcinoma of the prostate. In these cases low fibrinogen levels are usually accompanied by corresponding decreases in profibrinolysin and inhibitors. This has been interpreted as indicative of increased activation and utilization of the enzyme precursor. The resulting fibrinolysin destroys fibrinogen as well as any fibrin clots which may be formed. Active fibrinolysin itself may or may not be demonstrable *in vitro*. A return to normal levels of all factors of the enzyme system is observed after the hemorrhagic state is controlled and the underlying cause is corrected (21-23).

In contrast to this picture were the completely normal levels of profibrinolysin and inhibitors in the two patients with familial hypofibrinogenemia despite severely decreased fibrinogen levels. Moreover the variations in the enzyme levels were within normal limits over a period of ten months indicating a stable condition.

Earlier investigators have suggested that the coagulation defect in congenital afibrinogenemia is due to inability of the liver to synthesize fibrinogen in sufficient amounts (5-8). More recently GITTLE et al. (24-25) showed that the turnover of 125 I-labelled fibrinogen in patients with congenital afibrinogenemia is essentially the same as that found in normal individuals, thus ruling out accelerated removal of fibrinogen from the vascular system. A more rapid turnover has been noted only in a few patients who had developed a precipitating anti-fibrinogen antibody as a result of repeated fibrinogen therapy (26, 27).

Although fibrinogen turnover was not determined in either of the patients presented here, abnormal degradation of fibrinogen did not seem to be taking place. Both were healthy during the study neither father nor son had ever received transfusions or fibrinogen, and in both of them the fibrinolytic system was normal and showed remarkable stability throughout the study period.

The results obtained by ASTRUP (1) and those presented in this report indicate that patients with congenital fibrinogen deficiencies apparently possess completely normal fibrinolytic systems. Therefore it appears unlikely that the low level of fibrinogen has caused a decrease in the production of profibrinolysin or that activation of profibrinolysin is responsible for decreased fibrinogen. Also the levels of the two substances are probably not controlled by the same regulating factor or factors.

These patients would presumably respond in the same way as normal individuals do under conditions which might activate the fibrinolytic system. Combined with their already low fibrinogen reserves this activation might result in serious hemorrhagic difficulties. Therefore fibrinogen should always be available for these patients when surgery or delivery is anticipated.

Summary

Two cases of familial hypofibrinogenemia occurring in father and his son have been presented. Fibrinogen values ranged from 75-140 mg%. Other members of the family had fibrinogen levels between 700-2300 mg%. Studies of the fibrinolytic system

system in father and son showed normal levels of profibrinolysis and inhibitors over a period of 10 months. These results differ markedly from those obtained in cases of acquired hypofibrinogenemia where low fibrinogen is accompanied by correspondingly low levels of profibrinolysis and inhibitors.

Résumé

Deux cas d'hypofibrinogénémie familiale sont décrits chez un père et son fils. Les taux de fibrinogène variaient de 73-140 mg%. Chez d'autres membres de la famille ces taux comprenaient 200-230 mg%. En étudiant le système enzymatique fibrinolytique chez le père et le fils on trouva des taux de profibrinolysine et d'inhibiteurs normaux. Les contrôles furent effectués pendant une période de dix mois. Ces résultats diffèrent nettement de ceux trouvés dans des cas d'hypofibrinogénémie acquise, où l'on constate un taux de fibrinogène diminué et de très basses valeurs de profibrinolysine et d'inhibiteurs.

Zusammenfassung

Zwei Fälle von familiärer Hypofibrinogenämie bei Vater und Sohn werden beschrieben. Die Fibrinogenwerte betragen 73-140 mg%. Bei anderen Familienmitgliedern lagen sie zwischen 200 und 230 mg%. Die Untersuchungen des fibrinolytischen Enzymsystems bei Vater und Sohn ergaben normale Werte von Profibrinolysin und Inhibitoren über eine Zeitspanne von 10 Monaten. Diese Ergebnisse unterscheiden sich deutlich von den Beobachtungen bei Fällen von erworbener Hypofibrinogenämie, wo ein erniedrigtes Fibrinogen zusammen mit entsprechend niedrigen Werten von Profibrinolysin und Inhibitoren vorkommt.

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Progress in Allergy Vol. 7 Edited by *P. Kallik* and *B. H. Waksman*. S. Karger AG, Basel/
New York 1963. XII + 334 S., 46 Abb., 42 Tab., Preis sF / DM 60.—

In einer kurzen Einleitung weist B. H. WAKSMAN auf das außerordentliche Wachstum der Basenforschung und der angewandten Forschung auf dem Gebiete der Immunologie hin und gibt einige Hinweise auf besonders aktuelle Forschungsrichtungen.

Über die vererbten Gamma-Globulin-Gruppen beim Menschen, deren Interpretation und Anwendung, berichtet H. FUNENUSSEN. Er weist auf die mögliche große klinische und legal-medizinische Bedeutung dieser erst seit einigen Jahren bekannten Befunde hin.

Einen ganz andern Aspekt der Rolle der Gammaglobuline zeigt K. IMIZURA. In «Gamma Globulin and Molecular Mechanism in Hypersensitivity Reactions» werden die neuen Forschungsergebnisse in extenso besprochen, insbesondere die Bedeutung der klärischen Antigen/Antikörper Komplexe für das allergische Geschehen.

Probleme der Organspezifität mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Linsen werden von S. P. HALBERT und W. MÄUSEN dargestellt. Die großen Untersuchungsreihen der Autoren über das Verhältnis zwischen Art und Organspezifität werden ausführlich diskutiert. Ebenso werden Fragen der ontogenetischen Entwicklung der Linsen und deren Herstellung durch homologe Antikörper besprochen. Nach einem Hinweis auf die möglichen Zusammenhänge mit klinischen Erscheinungen werden summarisch weitere Probleme über Organspezifitäten, mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Phylogenie, aufgeworfen.

Die Regulation der autonomen Mikrozirkulation wird von R. W. SCHAYLER aufgegriffen. Der Hauptrolle wird dem «induced Histamine» zugeordnet, als ausgeglichener Antagonist werden die Glucocortikoide betrachtet. Die übrigen möglichen Regulationsmechanismen werden auf Grund der neuesten Forschungsergebnisse abgeschlossen.

Das große Kapitel über immunologische Aspekte der Mykosen ist nicht nur für den Immunologen, sondern auch für den Kliniker sehr aufschlußreich. S. B. SALVIN führt darin unter anderem die vielen möglichen immunologischen Nachweismethoden auf.

Äußerliche Kapitel sind mit großen Bibliographien versehen. Sowohl für den Wissenschaftler wie auch für den Kliniker ist dieser neue Band der Serie «Progress in Allergy» ein wertvolles Arbeitsinstrument und gibt einen ausgezeichneten Einblick in aktuelle Allergie-Probleme.

F. OTT, Zürich

Alexander S. Wiener and Irving B. Wiener: An Rh-Hr Syllabus. Second Edition. Grune and Stratton, New York 1963. 108 p., 23 tab., 7 fig. Price \$ 4.50.

The second edition of *An Rh-Hr Syllabus* closely resembles the first in format and content, differing essentially in the addition of co-author (IRVING B. WIENER) and 28 more pages. This glossary of terms, tests and theories is a dictionary of the assumptions and definitions employed by the senior author. The book reveals no effort to relate Rh serology to advances in biochemistry and immunology. Instead the authors omit such data (viz. table 5, p. 13).

An Rh-Hr Syllabus ma "include all aspects of serology and genetics" as claimed the preface, but some aspects are treated differently on separate pages. For example, table 11 (p. 40) implies that the Rh phenotype represents a discrete and known number of genotypes. In contrast, table 13 (p. 46), which unfortunately contains some errors, is a denial of such a possibility.

Dr. WICKER obviously knows the Rh story. The question uppermost in the mind of this reviewer is whether his assumptions, definitions, and bizarre terminology serve an important function in teaching. To Dr. WICKER, Rho, Rho, Rho, Rho, R and R may be necessary but many students cannot clearly differentiate the six complex distinctions. Dr. WICKER knows and states (p. 14) that univalent antibody should not be construed literally; unfortunately the nature of the term sharply narrows the viewpoint of the student. In justice, of course, one must admit that D, D^u, D, D^u affords only 33% improvement and that the term "incomplete" antibody is just as misleading as "univalent". The Rh story has indeed suffered acutely from misleading nomenclature. As SWANSON (J. Amer. med. Ass. 185: 21, 1963) suggests, the dismal fate may await all areas in which data accumulates at a rate in excess of an unbiased coding capacity. Blood group serology twenty years ago was in less difficulty; that was 1943, when the third edition of WICKER, "Blood Groups and Transfusion" was published. Now repeated, this book affords a refreshing reminder of WICKER's earlier abilities to communicate.

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Acquired Pure Red Cell Agnesia

Report of 16 Cases and Review of the Literature

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MALCOLM M. HARGRAVES

In 1922 KAZNELSON (23) described the first case of pure red cell agnesia (PRCA) using the syndrome to demonstrate that platelets originated from megakaryocytes as proposed by the theory of WRIGHT and that platelets were not the end result of the expelled normoblastic nucleus, as suggested by SCHILLING. In KAZNELSON's (23) case, platelets were present in normal numbers and megakaryocytes were plentiful in the bone marrow but normoblasts were absent.

PRCA is a disease of unknown origin, characterized by virtual absence of erythropoiesis in the bone marrow, while granulocytopoiesis and formation of platelets remain relatively unaffected. The disease occurs in two forms, each of which affects a different age group. The congenital form (type of DIAMOND-BLACKFAN 11) usually results in death within the first few years of life rarely spontaneous recovery has developed. The chronic acquired form of the disease affects mainly individuals more than 50 years of age. In the present study we will attempt to separate reported cases of the chronic acquired type, of which 23 have been found (11 13, 15, 16, 19 22, 23 28, 29 31-35 37 41 42, 44 48, 49 51) from the congenital variety of which approximately 50 have been reported (1-7 10, 12 14 21 25 27 30 36, 38-40, 47 52, 54)

A separate syndrome has been recognized recently characterized by the association of PRCA with kwashiorkor in marantic children of Kenya (16, 17 26, 53), with almost invariable recovery from the aplasia after riboflavin therapy

In addition to these chronic forms of PRCA, a syndrome exists that is characterized by the acute temporary disappearance of normoblasts from the bone marrow. This

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transient red cell aplasia was described originally by Gasser (18) in association with various toxic and allergic reactions. In this acute type of erythroblastopenia, giant pronormoblasts are noted in the bone marrow. The normoblastic aplasia usually does not last longer than 7 to 10 days.

The chronic acquired disease, which is the subject of the present study, appears in two forms: the first associated with benign thymoma and the other without this association. We will describe the natural history of the chronic acquired disease, comparing the findings in our own series of patients with findings in previously reported cases. The cases associated with thymoma will be the subject of a separate report. The following terms have been used in the past as synonyms for acquired PRCA: pure red cell aplasia or anemia, primary red cell aplasia, erythroblastopenia, idiopathic aplastic anemia, selective erythroid aplasia, erythroblastic hypoplasia, chronic hypoplastic anemia, essential erythroblastopenia, aregenerative anemia associated with thymoma, and primary refractory anemia.

Material and Methods of Study

Sixteen cases of PRCA were selected from review of the Mayo Clinic files during 10½-year period beginning January 1951 and ending July 1961. For selecting our own cases and those reported in the literature, the following criteria for the diagnosis of PRCA have been used: (1) severe normochromic, normocytic anemia, requiring blood transfusions; (2) reticulocyte counts reduced to less than 0.3%, usually 0%; (3) a normocellular bone marrow with selective, virtual absence of the erythroid line in the presence of essentially unaltered granulopoiesis and adequate numbers of megakaryocytes, and (4) absence of enlargement of the spleen, liver and lymph nodes prior to the onset of hemodilution induced by multiple blood transfusions.

Pertinent findings in our 16 cases are summarized in table I and bone marrow differential counts of these cases are listed in table II.

In the literature, 23 cases of acquired PRCA have been reported up to the present time. This series of reported cases is summarized in table III. Cases of our series shall be referred to by Arabic numbers and the cases from the literature shall be referred to by Roman numerals.

Clinical Features and Hematological Findings

The combined series (table I and III) includes 39 patients: 25 males and 14 females. The age distribution of PRCA is characterized by three peaks (fig. 1). The congenital form of Diamond and Blackfan occurs in early infancy with approximately 50 cases described to this date (1-7, 10, 12, 14, 21, 25, 27, 30, 36, 38-40, 47, 50, 52, 54). The chronic acquired form of PRCA has a small peak of incidence at the time of puberty while most of the cases are seen after the age of 50 years. In contrast, patients suffering from

Table I

Summary of data on 16 cases of acquired pure red cell agnecia encountered at the Mayo Clinic.

Case	Age (years) and sex	Duration (years)	Comments
1	63 F	2½	Toxic exposure only to tolbutamide; diabetes mellitus cryofibrinogen found 9 months after onset hemolytic anemia prior to death
2	76 M	3	Transfusion reaction cause of death; hemosiderosis
3	15 M	—	Had red cell aplasia during infancy with spontaneous recovery; relapse at age 15; splenectomy without benefit requires transfusion every 3 weeks
4	49 M	1	Toxic exposure to benzene; concurrent toxic hepatitis cause of death
5	73 F	3½	Accidental death after 125 blood transfusions
6	56 M	—	Toxic exposure to volatile solvent; no help from adrenal steroids still alive 5 years after onset with signs of hemosiderosis requires transfusions
7	67 F	5	Spontaneous remission after 5 years
8	55 M	3	No help from splenectomy; died of hemochromatosis after 130 transfusions
9	60 M	—	Toxic exposure to insecticides no help from splenectomy
10	34 F	½	Toxic exposure to gamma isomer of hexachlorocyclohexane, recovered after removal of toxic agent within 5 months
11	70 F	1	Toxic exposure to gamma isomer of hexachlorocyclohexane only transient benefit from testosterone death later
12	70 M	—	Considerable benefit from testosterone in maintaining hemoglobin at 8 to 9 grams per cent for one year while on androgen therapy
13	72 M	3	Spontaneous recovery after 9 months
14	56 M	2	Died of acute leukemia hemosiderosis
15	47 M	1½	Toxic exposure to pentachlorophenol; died of acute leukemia
16	53 M	—	Recovered after 3 years from PRCA (112 transfusions) then transition to chronic granulocytic leukemia, still alive

classic aplastic anemia, with depression of all bone marrow cells, are predominantly young adults. In the series of Scott et al. (43) 30 of the 39 patients were less than 40 years of age.

Patients with uncomplicated PRCA in our series presented normochromic and normocytic red cells in the peripheral blood smear with no evidence of regeneration. The differential counts were usually unremarkable (table IV) although mild eosinophilia and/or lymphocytosis were occasionally present. Immature leukocytes were practically never found.

Table III

Summary of data on 23 cases of acquired pure red cell agnogenesis reported in the literature.

Case	Reference	Year	Age (years) and sex	Duration	Comments
I	23	1922	58 M	?	Erythropoiesis absent in marrow at necropsy
II	31	1931	38 M	$\frac{1}{2}$ year	Terminal leukopenia
III	22	1937	30 M	6 years	In past, agranulocytosis; cancer of breast and hemosiderosis at necropsy
IV	22	1937	21 F	3 years	Amenorrhea since age 19; splenectomy terminal thrombocytopenia
V	33	1942	46 M	$3\frac{1}{2}$ years	Hemosiderosis. Death
VI	32	1943	22 F	6 weeks	Died of transfusion reaction
VII	34	1943	20 F	3 years	Temporary leukopenia; was fatal
VIII	49	1943	33 F	6 weeks	Toxic exposure to sulfathiazole recovered after discontinuing drug
IX	57	1950	23 F	2 years	Anemia noted at age 1 improved after puberty relapsed at age 21
X	19	1951	? M	2 years	Toxic exposure to benzol temporary thrombocytopenia
XI	16	1953	46 M	few weeks	Toxic exposure to quinacrine recovered, treated with riboflavin
XII	29	1953	17 M	5 years	Hemolytic anemia developed, recovery after splenectomy and treatment with ACTH
XIII	29	1953	17 M	2 years	Recovery after splenectomy
XIV	44	1953	62 M	$1\frac{1}{2}$ years	Toxic exposure to sulfonamide; agranulocytosis in past. Death from hemosiderosis
XV	44	1953	40 F	3 years	Toxic exposure to dry cleaning fluid recovery with cobalt
XVI	13	1954	58 F	1 year	Auto-immune hemolytic disease developed recovery after splenectomy
XVII	41	1954	51 M	$4\frac{1}{2}$ years	Developing hemosiderosis?
XVIII	15	1955	49 F	$1\frac{1}{2}$ years	Splenectomy with temporary improvement recovery with cobalt
XIX	51	1957	64 M	3 years	Splenectomy two remissions after treatment with ACTH terminal hemolytic anemia and hemosiderosis
XX	48	1960	57 M	5 years	Toxic exposure to benzol; thymectomy and cortisone remission died of leukemia
XXI	35	1960	59 M	5 months	Improved by bone marrow transfusion
XXII	42	1960	69 M	$1\frac{1}{2}$ years	Diabetes mellitus developed after numerous transfusions; death from acute cardiac failure
XXIII	28	1961	18 M	4 years	Three remissions obtained with prednisone associated hypogammaglobulinemia

Table IV

Average peripheral blood differential counts at onset of anemia.

	Average per cent by cases	
	Reported in Literature (14 cases)	Mayo Clinic series (18 cases)
Lymphocytes	33.2	32.8
Monocytes	6.0	7.8
Neutrophils	56.4	53.0
Eosinophils	4.4	4.3
Basophils	0.6	1.2

Bone marrow specimens were of normal overall cellularity on histologic sections, with selective virtual absence of all normoblastic forms in marrow smears. The ratio of myelocytes to erythroblasts in our cases at the time of initial examination ranged from 18.1 to 100.0. An increase in the number of lymphocytes was described in 5 reported cases (II, III V VII, and XII). In 11 of our cases, lymphocytosis was noted in the bone marrow (table II). Lymphoid cells with small, dark, pyknotic nuclei and scanty basophilic cytoplasm were seen in most of our cases. These unusual, peculiar cells, first described by CHALMERS AND BOHNECKER (8-9) differ in appearance from normal lymphocytes. They seem to be a characteristic finding in the marrow of patients with PRCA, but their origin is unknown. They may represent degenerating normoblasts which are unable to mature due to some defect or deficiency. Since these cells (morphologically) resemble lymphocytes more than normoblasts, they have been counted as lymphocytes in bone marrow differential counts (table II). An increased number of eosinophils was mentioned in 6 cases from the literature (III V VII VIII, XIV and XVIII) and we noted this finding in 7 of our cases. Plasma cells and tissue basophils were increased in the marrow smears of several of our patients.

At the time of onset of disease, none of the patients in either series showed evidence of increased erythrocyte hemolysis. Results of radiochromium studies of erythrocyte survival are presented in table V. Later in the course of the disease, hemolytic anemia developed in 4 instances (cases XII XVI XIX, and I) with generally favorable response to splenectomy and/or adrenal steroids. Studies of radioiron kinetics (table V) revealed a greatly prolonged disappearance rate of radioactive iron from the plasma and complete failure to incorporate iron into erythrocytes.

Table V

Rates of production and destruction of erythrocytes (studies with Fe^{59} and Cr^{51})

	Disappearance rate of plasma iron (Fe^{59}) (half-time) (Normal values: 80 to 120 minutes)	Rate of incorporation of Fe^{59} into erythrocytes (Normal values: 70 to 100% after 14 days)	Rate of erythrocyte destruction (Cr^{51} survival) (Normal values: Less of less than 2.5% per day over 10 days)
Case XII		Less than 4% after 6 weeks	
Case XIII		5% after 19 days	
Case 2	More than 15 hours	0 after 14 days	
Case 11		31.4% after 10 days (on androgen therapy)	3.0% per day
Case 13	More than 3 hours	0 after 10 days	2.2% per day
Case 16	More than 15 hours	0 after 14 days	

Table VI

Toxic agents possibly involved as etiologic factors.

Toxic agent	Cases
Benzole, benzene hexachloride	X, XIX, XCh, 4, 10, 11
Sulfonamide	VIII, XIV
Pentachlorophenol	13
Insecticides	9
Volatile solvent	6
Dry cleaning fluid	XV
Quinacrine	XI
Tolthamate	I

In case XXIII, reported by LINK and MURRAY (28) hypogammaglobulinemia was associated with PRCA. In case 1 of our series, a cryofibrinogen was demonstrated temporarily in the blood and at that time purpuric lesions appeared on the lower extremities.

In 14 of the 39 cases of both series, exposure to a toxic agent which may have played some part in the development of the disease was found (table VI). The assumption that the toxic factor might have played a significant role in causing the disease is strengthened by the fact that in two cases (VIII and 10) removal of the offending agent alone was followed by complete recovery from PRCA. In case XIV reported by SKAMAN and KOLER (44) the patient recovered from two separate episodes of PRCA after removal of a toxic factor but a third episode of PRCA developed several years later for which no toxic factor could be found. In both instances in which sulfonamides were thought to be responsible for the onset of the disease, an allergic skin reaction was also present and was presumed to have been caused by hypersensitivity to the drug. In all 6 patients exposed to compounds containing benzene hexachloride the exposure was long standing, extending over several months to

years. In case XX, described by SOUTTER AND EMERSON (48) exposure occurred 8 years prior to the onset of the disease, while in the other 5 cases the exposure was most prominent just prior to the onset of PRCA. In case 4 toxic hepatitis, which caused the patient's death, was present in association with PRCA and was presumed to be due to the same toxic exposure.

In our series of 16 cases, 8 patients are still alive at the time of this report. The duration of PRCA in the 8 patients who succumbed was 1 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ years with an average of $2\frac{1}{4}$ years. The duration of the PRCA phase in our cases ranged from 5 months to 5 years. Because of the selective depression of erythropoiesis, prognosis seems to be better for patients with PRCA than for those suffering from aplastic anemia. Among 15 patients of both series who died as a result of PRCA (excluding those with terminal leukemia) cerebral hemorrhage due to terminal thrombocytopenia was the cause of death in only one patient, namely in case IV described by KARK (22).

As demonstrated in table VII death occurred most frequently in patients in whom exogenous hemochromatosis had developed. Transition into an acute, rapidly fatal leukemia occurred in 3 patients, one to three years after the onset of PRCA. Chronic granulocytic leukemia became apparent three years after onset of PRCA in one patient (case 16) who is still alive under treatment with busulfan and no longer requires blood transfusions (table VIII).

Table VII
Causes of death.

Cause of death	Cases
Hemosiderosis	III, V XIV XIX, 2, 8, 14
Leukemia	XX, 14 15
Transfusion reaction	VI, 2
Toxic hepatitis	4
Cardiac failure	XXII
Bacteremia	XIX
Terminal thrombocytopenia	IV
Accidental death	5
Cause not well documented	I II, VII, 1 II

Therapy

The only form of PRCA known to respond to specific therapy is the one recently described in association with kwashiorkor which can be cured by riboflavin (17 26 53). In 1953 FOY AND HONDA (16) described recovery from PRCA in a 46-year-old colored man

Table VIII
Course and outcome of leukemia in four cases.

Case	Type of leukemia	Duration of red cell aplasia	Duration of leukemia	Outcome
XX	Acute monocytic	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ years	9 months	Dead
14	Acute	1 year	6 months	Dead
15	Acute	15 months	3 months	Dead
16	Chronic granulocytic	3 years	3 years	Alive

of Kenya by the administration of riboflavin. This case most likely belonged to the afore mentioned special form of PRCA since other investigators have not reproduced the favorable effect of riboflavin therapy in American or European patients.

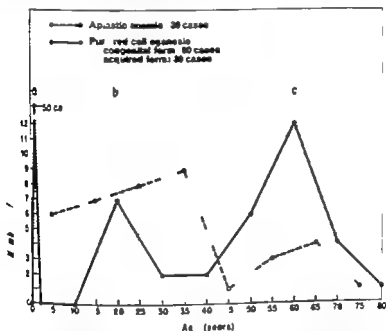


Fig. 1. Age distribution of patients having aplastic anemia reported by Scott et al. (43) compared with that of patients having pure red cell aplasia. Peak a. Congenital form according to Diamond and Blackfan (11). Peak b and c. Acquired form.

The disease has only rarely subsided spontaneously. In our series, a 67 year-old woman (case 7) who had required transfusions over a 5-year period, experienced a remission without any therapy in 1955 and is still alive at the time of this report. Similarly, a 72 year-old man (case 13) recovered 9 months after the onset of the

illness and has been well for one year. Two patients, case 3 from our series and case IX described by PALMÉN AND VAHLQUIST (37) recovered from congenital PRCA. case IX recovered after the age of puberty, while in case 3 remission occurred $2\frac{1}{2}$ years after transfusion of 35 pints of blood. These latter two patients had a relapse of PRCA at the age of 21 and 15 years, respectively, and therapeutic efforts were no longer of avail.

Removal of a toxic agent was followed by recovery of PRCA in several patients. In case VIII reported by STRAUSS (49) the patient recovered within 6 weeks after the use of sulfathiazole was discontinued. In our case 10 a 34-year-old woman with multiple allergies recovered from PRCA which had required 12 pints of blood, after cessation of repeated exposures to a vaporized insecticide containing Lindane (gamma isomer of hexachlorocyclohexane). In case XIV described by SRAMAN AND HOLER (44) the patient recovered from two separate episodes of PRCA after the use of a sulfonamide drug was stopped.

Several therapeutic approaches have been proposed in the past for PRCA with variable benefit. *Splenectomy* alone or combined with postoperative ACTH or adrenal steroid therapy was curative in three patients with superimposed hemolytic anemia (cases VII, XVI, and XX). These patients recovered from the hemolytic process as well as from PRCA. In patients with PRCA alone, splenectomy cured the anemia in case XIII described by LORR et al (29) and together with cobalt therapy induced a remission in case XVIII reported by FOUNTAIN AND DALES (15). Splenectomy alone, however, was performed without benefit in 5 patients (III, IV, 3, 8, and 9) and oral administration of cobalt was ineffective in 5 others (XIX, XX, 1, 3, and 5).

Adrenal steroids were administered to most of our patients and to several patients reported previously. The overall results appear disappointing. In case XX, described by SOUTTER AND EMERSON (48) thymectomy (in the absence of a thymoma) and adrenal steroids resulted in remission of longstanding PRCA. Acute monocytic leukemia developed later, however, and the patient died 9 months after thymectomy. LEVIE AND MURRAY (28) obtained three separate remissions (case XXIII) with prednisone.

NICOLAU et al (35) induced a remission by the *transplantation of bone marrow* from a homologous donor in a 59-year-old man suffering from PRCA (case XXI).

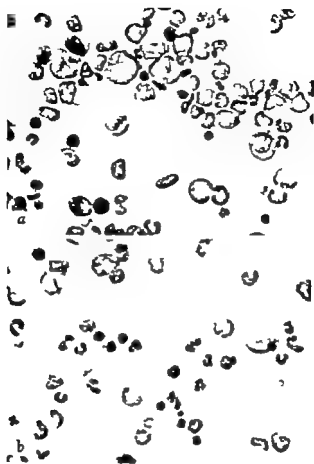


Fig. 2. Photomicrograph of bone marrow in case 11 a) prior to androgen therapy b) 4 weeks after androgen therapy. Wason's stain. $\times 500$.

Long-term androgen therapy is known to affect the bone marrow by selective stimulation of erythropoiesis (24). SHAHIDI AND DIAMOND (45, 46) have reported favorable response to androgen therapy in children with aplastic anemia and congenital hypoplastic anemia. We have found in the literature no reports of androgen therapy in adults with acquired PRCA without associated thymoma. While in our own experience short trials were inefficient in cases 1, 3, 14, and 16, continuous long-term administration of testosterone seemed to be beneficial in cases 11 and 12. One patient (case 12) has not required further blood transfusions since the sixth month of treatment and has maintained a hemoglobin concentration of 8 to 9 g/

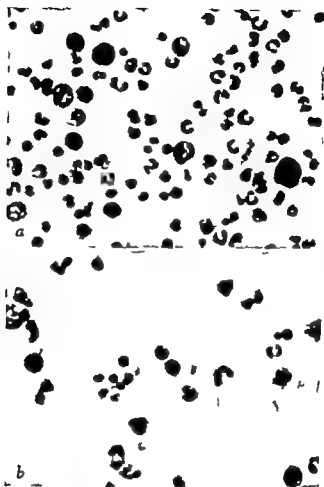


Fig. 3. Photomicrograph of bone marrow in case 12 a) prior to androgen therapy b) 7 months after androgen therapy WRIGHT stain 500.

100 ml for one year on androgen therapy. The other patient (case 11) had required regular blood transfusions for 8 months and initially responded well to androgen therapy. At the end of 6 weeks the patient had not required further transfusions. Reticulocytes rose from 0.1 to 2.6% after 6 weeks of androgen therapy. However the rate of incorporation of radioiron did not reach a normal level while testosterone was being administered, since only 31% incorporation into erythrocytes was measured at the end of 10 days (table V). Normoblastic erythropoiesis, entirely lacking at first, could be demonstrated in the marrow smears during testosterone therapy (table II and fig. 2a and 2b).

Figures 2a and 3a show photomicrographs of bone marrow smears of cases 11 and 12 prior to therapy. In figures 2b and 3b there is evidence of erythropoiesis in the marrow of these two patients, 4 weeks and 7 months following the administration of testosterone propionate, 100 mg intramuscularly three times weekly. Erythropoiesis, however, was still inadequate at that time (tables II and V). While one patient (case 12) obtained almost complete remission, the other patient (case 11) relapsed several months later and died.

Summary

Acquired pure red cell agnesia is an uncommon type of refractory anemia, characterized by the virtual absence of red cell precursors from an otherwise cellular marrow. The basic underlying defect is not known, but in some patients the disease may be initiated by drug or by chemical exposure. About 10% of the 39 cases reviewed, increased hemolysis developed, and about 10% of the cases terminated as leukemia. Males were affected about twice as frequently as females. The maximal incidence was after 50 years of age and during adolescence. No therapy has been uniformly successful. Some patients apparently have recovered after the administration of adrenal steroids or ACTH, and others have recovered after removal of an offending drug or chemical. From our limited experience it would appear that long-term androgen therapy may be helpful. In the presence of superimposed hemolytic process, splenectomy alone or in combination with adrenal steroids seems indicated.

Résumé

L'agénésie érythrocytaire acquise est une forme rare des anémies réfractaires. Elle est caractérisée par une absence complète et persistante de l'érythropoïèse dans une moelle osseuse par ailleurs intacte et riche en cellules. L'étiologie de cette affection est inconnue. Dans près de la moitié des 39 cas étudiés, une exposition à des agents toxiques précéda le début de l'anémie. Dans environ 10% des cas un processus hémolytique fut bien démontré dans des stades ultérieurs, et dans 10 autres des cas on observa une leucémie terminale. La maladie commence presque toujours après la cinquantaine, à l'exception de quelques cas isolés entre 15 et 25 ans. Plusieurs cas furent guéris par traitement à la cortisone et à l'ACTH, ou encore par l'élimination de la substance toxique. Cependant le plus souvent l'anémie fut totalement réfractaire au traitement. Selon notre expérience toutefois très limitée, un traitement aux androgènes de longue durée peut améliorer l'anémie, cependant la splénectomie et un traitement corticoïdien sont préférables. Il y a une combinaison avec une anémie hémolytique.

Zusammenfassung

Die erworbene erythrozytäre Agnésie ist eine seltene Form von refraktärer Anämie. Sie ist gekennzeichnet durch langdauerndes, vollständiges Fehlen der Erythropoiese in einem sonst intakten, zellreichen Knochenmark. Die Ätiologie der Störung ist unbekannt. Bei etwa der Hälfte der durchgesehenen 39 Fälle kamen toxische Substanzen für die Auslösung der Krankheit in Frage. In circa 10% der Fälle konnte im späteren Stadium eine gesteigerte Hämolyse nachgewiesen werden und circa

10* der Fälle zeigten terminal eine Leukämie. Männer waren fast doppelt so häufig befallen wie Frauen. Die Krankheit trat fast immer nach dem 50. Lebensjahr auf, erreichte auch zwischen dem 15. und 25. Lebensjahr. Mehrere Patienten wurden durch Corticosteroide oder ACTH geheilt, andere durch die Eliminierung einer toxischen Noxe, meistens war die Anämie jedoch völlig therapieresistent. Entsprechend unserer begrenzten Erfahrung kann langdauernde Androgentherapie die Anämie bessern. Bei Kombination mit einer hämolytischen Anämie ist die Splenektomie allein oder in Verbindung mit einer Corticosteroid-Therapie, angezeigt.

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Aus der II. Medizinischen Universitätsklinik (Vorstand Prof. Dr. K. FELLINGER) und
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Verhinderung schwerer Meno- und Metrorrhagien bei hämatologischen Erkrankungen durch einen Ovulationshemmer

VON H. BRAUNSTEINER UND H. BRAITENBERG

Schwere Meno- und Metrorrhagien im Verlaufe von hämatologischen Erkrankungen stellen ein schwieriges therapeutisches Problem dar. Bisher ist im wesentlichen nur eine symptomatische Substitutionstherapie mit Bluttransfusionen und Eisenpräparaten möglich gewesen. Die Indikation zur Röntgenkastration kommt bei vorübergehender Blutungsbereitschaft nicht in Frage und ist bei mächtigsten Erkrankungen, wie etwa der akuten Leukämie, nicht anwendbar.

In den letzten Jahren ist durch die Entwicklung von Noristeron mit ausgeprägter ovulationshemmender Wirkung die Möglichkeit gegeben, eine künstliche beliebig lang andauernde Amenorrhoe zu erzeugen. Auf therapeutischem Gebiet wurde daraus unseres Wissens lediglich zur Schemschwangerschaftsbehandlung bei Sterilität (2) und zur Behandlung der Endometriose (1, 3, 4, 5, 6) Nutzen gezogen. Nach monatelanger Behandlung mit hochwirksamen Ovulationsunterdrückern (Anovlar, Enovid, Deluteval, Depot Provera, Lynestrenol, Norlutin) wurden keinerlei schädigende Nebenwirkungen gesehen. Nach Absetzen des Präparates haben die Patientinnen normal menstruiert und konzipiert.

Von diesen Erwägungen ausgehend haben wir uns zur Behandlung von hämatologischen Erkrankungen mit schweren Meno- und Metrorrhagien mit einem derartigen Präparat (4 mg Norethisteronacetat, 0,05 mg Äthinyloestradiol, «Anovlar Schering») entschlossen und geben einen vorläufigen Bericht über vier Patienten, wobei in jedem Fall das therapeutische Ziel erreicht wurde.

Kasuistik

Fall 1 23jährige Patientin mit akuter Leukose und allgemeiner schwerer Blutungsneigung, insbesondere mit ausgeprägten Metrorrhagien. Es bestand ein fast völliges Fehlen der Thrombozyten. Die Behandlung wurde mit höheren Corticoiddosen (50 bis 300 mg Prednisolon täglich) sowie mit 1 Tablette Anovlar täglich begonnen. Es kam zur Besserung des Allgemeinbefindens mit Anstieg des Hämoglobins, jedoch zu keiner hämatologischen Remission. Die Thrombozytenwerte blieben weiter unter $10\,000/\text{mm}^3$. Anovlar wurde insgesamt 12 Wochen lang in der Dosierung von täglich 1 Tablette gegeben, während dieser Zeit kam es zu keiner Genitalblutungen, wobei gleichzeitig, insbesondere gegen Ende der Behandlungsperiode ausgeprägte Schleimhautblutungen aus Nase und Zahnfleisch auftraten. Der Tod erfolgte nach etwa 3monatiger Krankheitsdauer durch schwere Nasen- und Mundblutungen mit Aspirationspneumonie. Über den histologischen Befund der Genitalorgane wird gesondert berichtet.

Fall 2 32jährige Frau mit akuter Leukose. Es bestanden schwere Metrorrhagien. Die Therapie wurde mit 6-Merkaptopurin, kleineren Dosen Prednisolon sowie 1 Tablette Anovlar täglich durchgeführt. Es kam zu einer teilweisen Remission mit Auftreten von 20 bis 25 Granulozyten und $50\,000$ Thrombozyten/ mm^3 . Anovlar wurde insgesamt 21 Wochen gegeben. Es traten zweimal nachts Genitalblutungen auf, die (vorübergehende Erhöhung der Dosis auf 2 bzw. 3 Tabletten Anovlar täglich sofort zum Stehen kamen. Die Patientin stirbt weiter in Behandlung der Klinik.

Fall 3 20jährige Patientin mit Morbus Hodgkin, bei der es zu schweren ochrang anhaltenden Metrorrhagien bei Thrombopenie gekommen war. Eine Stillung dieser Blutung konnte durch keine Maßnahme erreicht werden. Unter Therapie mit 1 Tablette Anovlar täglich kam die Blutung nach 4 Tagen zum Stehen. Seither steht die Patientin unter Therapie mit 1 Tablette täglich, einmal war es notwendig, kurzzeitig wegen einer geringgradigen Durchbruchblutung die Dosis auf 2 Tabletten zu erhöhen. Die bisherige Therapiedauer beträgt 23 Wochen, die Patientin steht unter Kontrolle der Klinik.

Fall 4 30jährige Patientin mit fast völligem Fehlen der Thrombozyten im Rahmen eines Morbus Gaucher. Die Splenektomie war unwirksam. Es traten schwere Meno- und Metrorrhagien auf, die 3 bis 6 Transfusionen wöchentlich notwendig machten. Nach Therapie mit Anovlar kam es innerhalb von 3 Tagen zum Stehen der Blutung. Die Therapie wurde insgesamt 18 Wochen fortgesetzt, ohne daß es jemals zu einer Genitalblutung gekommen wäre, gleichzeitig bestanden jedoch immer wieder schwere Nasenblutungen. Auf einer gegen unseren Rat unternommenen Reise verstarb die Patientin an einer Gehirnblutung. Bei der Autopsie wurden die Genitalorgane nicht untersucht.

Diskussion

Aus den mitgeteilten Krankengeschichten geht der therapeutische Wert der Behandlung mit Ovulationshemmern bei jüngeren Patientinnen mit hämatologischen Erkrankungen die an schweren Meno- und Metrorrhagien leiden hervor. Nebenwirkungen wurden bisher nicht beobachtet. Keine der Patientinnen litt an Übelkeiten oder Kopfschmerzen. Geringgradig leichte Blutungen ließen sich durch Erhöhung der Dosis prompt unterdrücken. Nach FERIN (4) sind diese leichten Blutungen vorwiegend während der ersten Behandlungsmonate zu beobachten. Wir haben nur Patientinnen behandelt, die auf Grund ihres Krankheitszustandes nicht

konzeptionsfähig waren. Wie schon erwähnt interferiert die Behandlung nicht mit der Möglichkeit einer späteren Konzeption nach Absetzen des Mittels. Es tritt dann eine Blutung innerhalb einiger Wochen ein. Ovulation und Menstruation normalisieren sich. Über unsere weiteren Erfahrungen werden wir nach einer längeren Beobachtungsperiode berichten.

Zusammenfassung

Durch Dauerbehandlung mit einem hochwirksamen Ovulationsunterdrücker (Anovlar) wurde bei Patientinnen mit hämorrhagischer Diathese und schweren Meno- und Metrorrhagien ein völliges Stillen der Genitalblutungen erreicht. Das Präparat führt nach allgemeiner Erfahrung zu keinen irreversiblen Veränderungen, so daß einer Konzeption nach Besserung des akut bedrohlichen Zustandes nichts im Wege steht. Nebenwirkungen wurden nicht beobachtet.

Summary

Continuous treatment with highly active inhibitor of ovulation (Anovlar) completely stopped genital bleeding in patients with haemorrhagic diathesis and severe menorrhagia and metrorrhagia. The treatment, according to general experience, does not produce any irreversible changes, so nothing need prevent conception once the acute emergency has been relieved. No side effects were observed.

Résumé

Le traitement, permanent, avec un très puissant inhibiteur de l'ovulation (Anovlar) mène à un arrêt complet des hémorragies génitales chez des malades souffrant d'une diathèse hémorragique et de sévères ménos- et métrorragies. D'après l'expérience générale le traitement ne provoque pas de changements irréversibles. Ainsi rien empêche une conception, aussitôt le danger éliminé. On ne pu observer de réactions secondaires.

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Chromosome Abnormalities in Multiple Myeloma

By C. BOTTURA

The nature and pathogenesis of multiple myeloma are unknown. As it is generally regarded as a neoplastic disease chromosome abnormalities were to be expected. However the first cytogenetic studies performed on five cases of the disease failed to show any structural or numerical anomalies of the chromosomes (1, 9). Recently references were made to five additional cases, three of which had abnormal karyotypes (5-7, 8).

As part of systematic studies on chromosomes of bone marrow cells in hemopoietic diseases, this communication deals with the chromosome findings in five cases of plasmacytoma.

Material and Methods

In all cases the chromosome analyses were carried out on bone-marrow cells obtained by sternal puncture and before any treatment was started. A direct method was used in which culture procedures are avoided (3). A colchicine derivative (Colcemid, CIBA) is injected intravenously and the marrow specimen collected 16 hours afterward. After treatment with hypotonic solutions, the suspension of cells is stained with the Feulgen reagent and squashed in the usual way.

Clinical Data

Case 1 J J 60-year-old white male, was admitted to the hospital for pain in the lumbar spine and pelvis of 1 and half years duration, radiating into the legs, with restriction of motion. On physical examination there was no lymph node enlargement or hepatosplenomegaly. The skeletal roentgenograms revealed widespread demineralization of the spine, pelvis and ribs, several punched out lesions in the upper ends of the femora, osteolytic lesions in the ribs and collapse of some vertebral bodies. R.B.C. 3,300,000 per mm³ Hemoglobin 9.0 gm/100 ml W.B.C. 3,200 per mm³ neutrophils 41 eosinophils 6 basophils 1, lymphocytes 43 and monocytes 9%. Sternal marrow biopsy plasma cell myeloma.

Case 2 A C. 44-year-old white male entered the hospital complaining of pain in the left chest for 8 months. In recent months he had developed swelling in the left chest. There was no hepatosplenomegaly or lymph node enlargement. X-ray examination revealed destruction of the sixth

left rib, large osteolytic lesion in the first left rib, numerous small destructive lesions in other ribs and several osteolytic lesions in the pelvis. R.B.C. 3,700,000 per mm³ Hemoglobin 11.5 gm/100 ml W.B.C. 5,400 per mm³ (neutrophils 72% eosinophils 4% basophils 2% lymphocytes 17% and monocytes 5%). Sternal marrow biopsy plasma cell myeloma.

Case 3: E. C. B., 66-year-old white female was admitted to the hospital complaining of pain in the left elbow and forearm of four years duration. One year later she developed pain and numbness in the left foot, and pain in the left chest made worse by respiratory movements and coughing. Severe pain had developed in the lumbar space in the last four months, and at the time of admission to the hospital she was completely bedridden. There had been progressive weight loss. No hepatosplenomegaly or lymphadenopathy were found. Bone X-ray revealed diffuse decalcification of the skull, ribs, spine and pelvis, without demonstrable focal lesions, and collapse of D12. R.B.C. 2,700,000 per mm³ Hemoglobin 8.9 gm/100 ml W.B.C. 6,500 per mm³ (neutrophils 51% eosinophils 0% basophils 1% lymphocytes 34% and monocytes 6%). Sternal marrow biopsy plasma cell myeloma.

Case 4: R. A. M., 61-year-old white male, entered the hospital with two years history of pain in the lower back, ribs, arms and legs which was relieved only by rest and analgesics. Six months before the initial symptoms he had suffered an injury to the left iliac crest with severe local pain which made him unable to walk for one month. He has been bedridden for the four last months because of increasing pain. Four days before admission to the hospital he developed complete motor and sensory paralysis of the lower extremities. He had anorexia, weakness and marked weight loss. In the hospital his state deteriorated rapidly and he died two months after admission. No liver spleen or lymph node enlargements. X-ray examination disclosed few osteolytic areas in the skull, mandible and both humeri and extensive lytic lesions in the spine, pelvis and ribs. R.B.C. 3,500,000 per mm³ Hemoglobin 11.2 gm/100 ml W.B.C. 6,300 per mm³ (neutrophils 46% eosinophils 19% basophils 0% lymphocytes 20% and monocytes 5%). Sternal and iliac marrow biopsies plasma cell myeloma. Post-mortem examination revealed widespread myelomatous infiltration of the bones. Gonads and genitals were normal.

Case 5: A. F., 42-year-old white male entered the hospital complaining of generalized edema and pain in lower limbs of three months duration. During the course of the disease he had repeated episodes of fever and large nasal hemorrhage. On admission he was completely incapacitated by severe bone pains and marked anemia. The spleen was palpable 5 cm. below the right costal margin and the spleen tip was felt below the left costal margin. There was no lymphadenopathy. The disease was rapidly progressive, and he died 8 days after admission. X-ray examination revealed diffuse demineralization of the skeleton and numerous small osteolytic lesions in the skull, upper third of both humeri and in upper and lower ends of the femora. R.B.C. 1,700,000 per mm³ Hemoglobin 2.9 gm/100 ml. Platelets 50,000 per mm³ W.B.C. 5,500 per mm³ (promyelocytes 1% metamyelocytes 2% neutrophils 78% eosinophils 8% basophils 1% lymphocytes 6% monocytes 3% and plasmacytes 1%) 13 normoblasts per 100 W.B.C. Sternal and iliac marrow biopsies plasma cell myeloma. Post-mortem examination showed multiple myeloma involving the bones, liver and spleen.

In table I are summarized the data on total proteins and their electrophoretic patterns and the values for serum calcium, phosphorus and alkaline and acid phosphatases.

Results and Comments

The five cases here reported present the complaints and bone roentgenologic changes commonly associated with multiple mye-

Table I
Blood chemistry in five cases of multiple myeloma.
Serum proteins, gm./100 ml

Patient	Total	Albumin	Alpha ₂	Alpha ₁	Gamma	Glucose	Urea Nitrogen (mg/100 ml)	Creatinine (mg/100 ml)	BUN (mg/100 ml)	Calcium (mg/100 ml)	Phosphorus (mg/100 ml)
J. J.	7.7	2.71	0.30	0.33	0.77	2.43	0.99	10.3	3.5	2.3	
A. C.	9.6	2.71	0.34	0.80	4.86		0.87	12.1	4.4	4.4	
E. C. S.	9.0	1.96	0.28	0.99	0.71		5.04	7.3	3.0	2.6	
R. A. M.	7.1	3.70	0.32	1.66	0.62		0.77	11.9	3.1	3.4	0.3
A. F.	8.2	1.20	0.09	0.11	0.34	-	6.43	8.8	3.9	4.7	1.3

Table II
Myeloma types and chromosome counts on bone-marrow cells.

Patient	Sex	Age	Myeloma type	Total Cells Counted	Number of chromosomes				
					44	45	46	31	92
J. J.	M	60	M	50	1		48		1
A. C.	M	44	Beta	50	2		48		
E. C. S.	F	66	Gamma	23			45		
R. A. M.	M	61	Alpha ₂	71		47	23		1
A. F.	M	42	Gamma	33			34	1	

loma. The values for serum calcium, inorganic phosphorus and alkaline and acid phosphatases provided evidence against the presence of other destructive bone diseases, and the myeloma cell proliferation found in bone marrow aspirations confirmed the diagnosis of plasma cell myeloma. In cases 4 and 5 the diagnosis was further confirmed at postmortem examination.

The results of chromosome counts are shown in table II. No chromosome abnormalities could be detected in the first three cases showing the electrophoretic patterns of the types beta, gamma and M (abnormal fraction with mobility between beta and gamma). However, there was no evidence that the metaphases analysed were actually mitotic myeloma cells. Besides minor aberrations could be present and not be detected morphologically by the method used.

In patient A. F., a gamma type myeloma, only one cell with abnormal karyotype was observed (fig 1). In spite of the poor quality of the preparation, at least 51 chromosomes plus 4 or 5 fragments could be discerned. In addition, one chromosome showed a complex configuration which was difficult to interpret. Like two cases reported by LEWIS AND MACTAGGART (7) this patient was also in the terminal stage of the disease at the time of investigation.

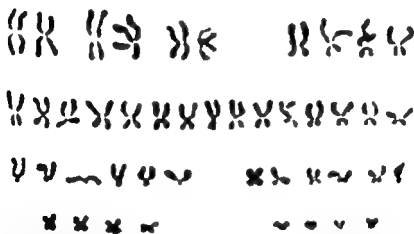
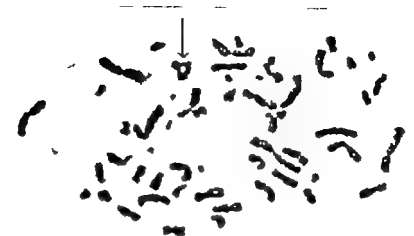


Fig. 1 Metaphase of bone marrow cell from patient A. F. At least 51 chromosomes and 4 or 5 fragments can be discerned. Complex chromosome aberration is arrowed.
 Fig. 2 Karyotype of metaphase cell from patient R. A. M. showing 45 chromosomes. One small acrocentric autosome is missing.

Although no pathogenetic significance can be assigned to an abnormality observed in one single cell, it seems very plausible that this was a neoplastic cell.

A quite different picture was shown by patient R. A. M. Counting disclosed two clones of cells. One with 46 chromosomes

had an apparently normal karyotype and these were considered as normal bone marrow cells in mitosis. The other clone with 45 chromosomes, showed a constant abnormality consisting of the absence of one small acrocentric autosome either 21 or 22 (fig. 7). The Y chromosome appeared to be present and an X/Y/XO mosaicism prior to the initiation of the disease is unlikely. Normal gonads were seen at postmortem examination and the patient was the father of eleven children. Unfortunately no skin or blood culture was performed to settle this.

The abnormality observed in this patient might have arisen during the course of the disease. In this case it would not be of primary etiological significance. However if detected in other cases of the disease, this finding would be of interest on several counts. Firstly it suggests the genetic nature of multiple myeloma. Secondly it would be another hemopoietic disease in which a small acrocentric autosome is involved the other one being chronic myeloid leukaemia. Finally there seems to be an increased tendency towards acute leukaemia in mongolism which is a trisomic state for one small autosome. These observations suggest that a pathogenetic interrelationship may occur in these apparently so different diseases.

As in the case of acute leukaemia chromosome abnormalities in multiple myeloma have been inconstant and no two published examples have been the same. At all events there is a clear distinction between the diversity of the findings in myeloma and the relatively consistent pattern in the related macroglobulinaemia of WALDENSTRÖM (2, 4, 6, 8).

Summary

Chromosome analyses were carried out on bone-marrow cells in five untreated cases of multiple myeloma. No chromosome abnormality was detected in three. In one patient only one out of 33 metaphases analysed showed an abnormal karyotype. In the last case the majority of cells had 45 chromosomes, and the missing one was a small acrocentric autosome. The pathogenetic significance of these findings is discussed.

Résumé

Dans 5 cas de plasmocytomes non traités on examina les chromosomes dans des cellules de la moelle osseuse. On ne trouva rien d'anormal dans 3 cas. Dans un cas, une des 33 métaphases étudiées présentait un caryotype anormal. Chez le dernier cas la majeure partie des cellules avait 45 chromosomes, et il manquait un petit chromosome acrocentrique. La signification pathogénique de ces résultats est discutée.

Zusammenfassung

Bei 5 unbehandelten Patienten mit Plasmocytom wurden Chromosomen-Analysen an Knochenmarksteilen vorgenommen. In 3 Fällen fanden sich keine Anomalien. In einem Fall zeigte eine von 35 untersuchten Metaphasen einen abnormalen Karyotyp. Beim letzten Fall wies die Mehrzahl der Zellen nur 45 Chromosomen auf, wobei ein kleines akrozentrisches Autosome fehlte. Die pathogenetische Bedeutung dieser Befunde wird besprochen.

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Studies on the Antigens of Human Red Cell Ghosts

Differences in Antigenic Specificity of Human Normal Adult, Hereditary Spherocytosis and Auto-immune Haemolytic Anaemia S Protein

By NICOLETTA VULPES*

In the previous paper (5) data were presented which suggest that normal adult and new born S proteins differ in their serologic behavior and that this can be explained on the basis of differences in their antigenic specificity.

The present investigation was undertaken to determine whether immunologically distinct varieties of S protein are associated with haemolytic syndromes, whether they are due to intrinsic defects of the erythrocyte or to mechanisms extrinsic to the cell. With the aid of rabbit antisera an analysis was made of the antigenic components in two S protein preparations, the former (SEHS) obtained from a patient with hereditary spherocytosis and the latter (SEAH) from a case of auto-immune haemolytic anaemia of the warm antibody type.

Methods

Preparation of S protein solutions: The SEHS and SEAH solutions were prepared according to the method of Moskowitz et al. (2). Two specimens of normal S protein (SEN₁ and SEN₂) were taken from two normal healthy donors and used for comparison study. The nitrogen contents of all samples of S protein were determined by micro-kjeldahl method; thereafter they were brought to the same nitrogen content (30 mg%) by suitably diluting with distilled water.

Preparation of antisera. Two groups of two young rabbits weighing initially approximately 2.4-2.8 kg were used. They were immunized with a total of 18.0 mg. of SEHS and SEAH per rabbit respectively by the method previously outlined (3). One of the two rabbits injected with SEHS died during immunization. When sufficiently high titres were obtained, the animals were bled either by cardiac puncture, or from ear vein, the serum removed from the clotted blood and stored in sterile serum vials kept at -70°C until used. They were usually absorbed free of serum proteins and large globulin antibodies by adding 0.30 ml human serum or crystalline erythrocytes.

This work was carried out while the author was NATO grantee in Germany.

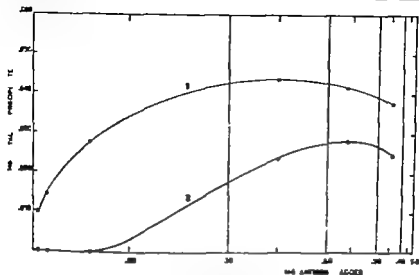


Fig. 1. Quantitative course of the precipitation reaction of rabbit anti-SEN₁ serum with homologous and heterologous antigen. Curve 1 refers to anti-SEN₁ + SEN₁, curve 2 to anti-SEN₁ + SEHS.

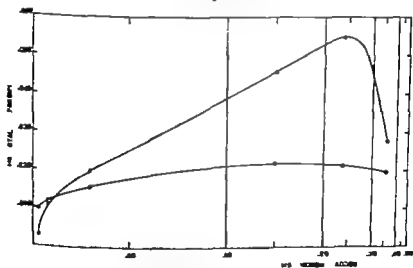


Fig. 2. Reaction of rabbit anti-SEHS serum and SEN₂. Curve 1 is for the homologous reaction, curve 2 for the cross reaction.

solution per ml antiserum. The serum and haemoglobin concentration was 5.03 and 1.03 g/100 ml respectively.

The antisera will be referred as anti-SEHS serum when the immunization was carried out with SEHS and anti₁- and anti₂-SEAH when SEAH served as antigen. An anti-SEN serum was employed as control.

Immunochemical techniques: The procedures used for the quantitative precipitation (1) OUCHTERLONY double diffusion in agar gel (6) and immuno-electrophoresis (3) have been described in earlier communications (4-5).

Results

Comparison of normal adult and hereditary spherocytosis S proteins. The anti-SEHS serum gave more precipitate with SEHS than with SEN_1 . The data of such serum are recorded in fig. 1. With anti- SEN_1 serum it was also found that more antibody could be precipitated by the homologous antigen than by SEHS (fig. 2). The same results were obtained with another preparation of normal adult S protein (SEN_2) (fig. 3). This may be due either to a common identical antigen or to a chemically related but not identical antigen.

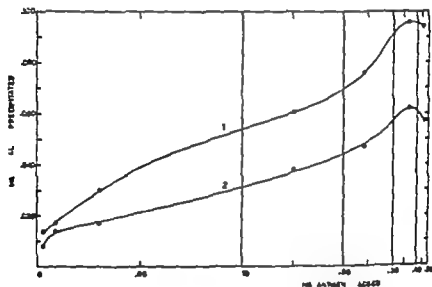


Fig. 3. Quantitative immunochemical curves showing cross reaction of SEN_2 with homologous anti- SEN_2 (curve 1) and heterologous anti-SEHS immune sera (curve 2).

The results obtained in the OUCHTERLONY agar-diffusion experiments clearly showed that no difference was present in the antigenic specificity of normal adult and hereditary spherocytosis S proteins. In fact, the sera anti- SEN_1 and anti-SEHS formed with SEN_1 as well as with SEHS three precipitation bands forming fusion patterns as shown in fig. 4. This implies that the two antigens being

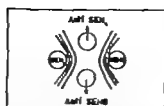


Fig. 4. Comparative double-diffusion analysis of SEN and SEHS by means of anti-SEN₁ and anti-SEHS immune sera. SEHS shows three precipitates that identify with the three lines obtained with SEN₁.

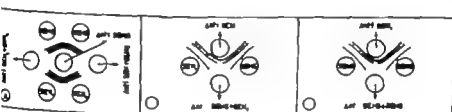


Fig. 5. Absorption of anti-SEN₁ (a) and anti-SEHS (b, c) with SEN₁ and SEHS causes disappearing of the precipitate bands.

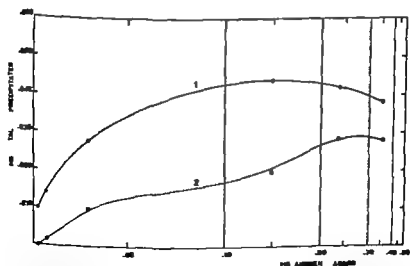


Fig. 6. Quantitative course of the precipitin reaction of rabbit anti-SEN₁ serum with homologous and heterologous antigen. Curve 1 refers to anti-SEN₁ + SEN₁, curve 2 to anti-SEN₁ + SEHS.

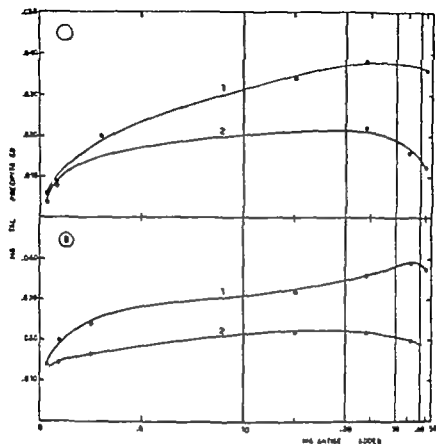


Fig 7 Reaction of rabbit anti-SEAH (a) and anti-SEAH (b) with SEAH and SEN. Curves 1 are for the homologous reaction, curves 2 for the cross reaction.

compared are *identical* serologically. A sample of each serum was absorbed both with SEN₁ and SEHS at the ratio of 0.06 mg S protein to 1.0 ml of serum. After 4 hours of incubation at 38°C the precipitate was centrifuged off. The supernatants were then reacted against SEN₁ and SEHS and failed to give precipitation bands (fig 5a, b c).

Comparison of normal adult and auto-immune haemolytic anaemia S protein. In contrast to the absence of antigenic specificity between normal adult and hereditary spherocytosis S protein, a difference in specificity was found to exist between normal adult and auto-immune haemolytic S protein. Quantitative data on the reaction of SEN₁ and SEAH with homologous and heterologous antisera are plotted in fig 6 and 7. The results there presented demonstrate

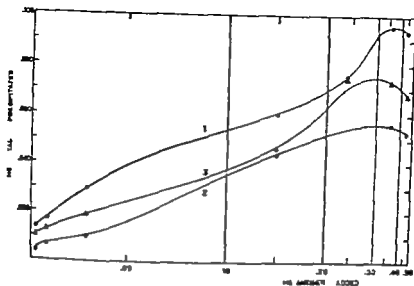


Fig. 2. Quantitative immunochemical curves showing cross reaction of SEN with homologous anti- SEN serum (curve 1) and heterologous anti- $SEAIH$ and anti- $SEAIH$ immune sera (curve 2 and 3).

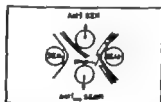


Fig. 3. Double-diffusion diagnostic test simultaneously comparing reaction of anti- SEN and anti- $SEAIH$ immune sera with SEN and $SEAIH$. With reference to SEN , anti- $SEAIH$ forms single precipitin band fitting with similar band produced by anti- SEN . In regard to $SEAIH$ the two immunesera form three precipitin bands, one of which gives reaction of partial interference.

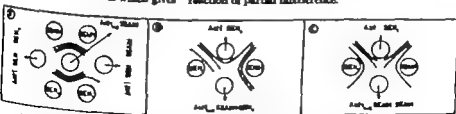


Fig. 4. Comparative double-diffusion analysis of SEN and $SEAIH$, using absorbed anti- SEN and anti- $SEAIH$ immune sera. a) After absorption with SEN anti- SEN does not give any precipitin reaction; after absorption with $SEAIH$ the same immune serum produces only a single precipitin band with SEN . b) After absorption with SEN , anti- $SEAIH$ produces two precipitates with $SEAIH$. c) After absorption with $SEAIH$ it gives only precipitin band with SEN .

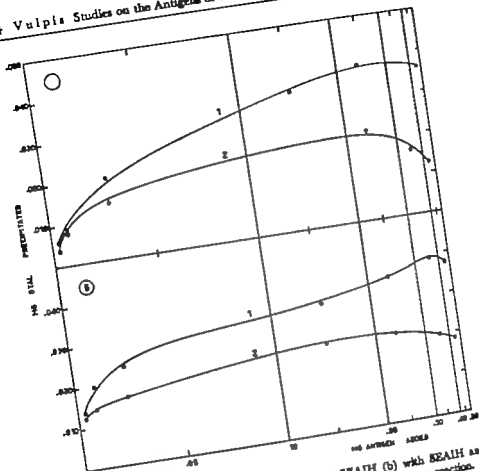


Fig 7 Reaction of rabbit anti-SEAIH (a) and anti-SEAIH (b) with SEAIH and SEN. Curves 1 are for the homologous reaction, curves 2 for the cross reaction.

compared are identical serologically. A sample of each serum was absorbed both with SEN₁ and SEHS at the ratio of 0.06 mg S protein to 1.0 ml of serum. After 4 hours of incubation at 38°C the precipitate was centrifuged off. The supernatants were then reacted against SEN₁ and SEHS and failed to give precipitation bands (fig 5a, b, c).

Comparison of normal adult and auto-immune haemolytic anaemia S protein. In contrast to the absence of antigenic specificity between normal adult and hereditary spherocytosis S protein, a difference in specificity was found to exist between normal adult and auto-immune haemolytic S protein. Quantitative data on the reaction of SEN₁ and SEAIH with homologous and heterologous antisera are plotted in fig 6 and 7. The results there presented demonstrate

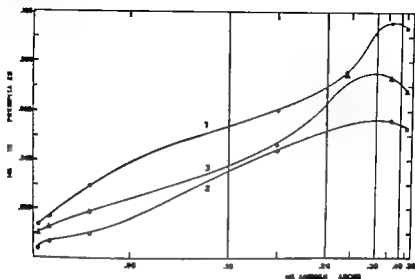


Fig. 2. Quantitative immunochemical curves showing cross reaction of SEN with homologous anti-SEN₁ serum (curve 1) and heterologous anti-SEA₁H and anti-SEA₂H immune sera (curve 2 and 3)



Fig. 3. Double-diffusion diagnostic test simultaneously comparing reaction of anti-SEN and anti-SEA₁H immune sera with SEN₁ and SEA₁H. With reference to SEN anti-SEA₁H forms single precipitin band fusing with similar band produced by anti-SEN₁. In regard to SEA₁H the two immunes form three precipitin bands, one of which gives reaction of partial interference.

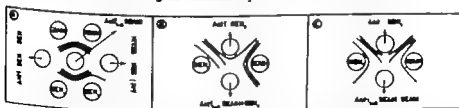


Fig. 4. Comparative double-diffusion analysis of SEN₁ and SEA₁H, using absorbed anti-SEN₁ and anti-SEA₁H immune sera: a) After absorption with SEN₁ anti-SEN₁ does not give any precipitin reaction; after absorption with SEA₁H the same immune serum produces only single precipitin band with SEN₁. b) After absorption with SEN₁, anti-SEA₁H produces two precipitates with SEA₁H. c) After absorption with SEA₁H it gives only a precipitin band with SEN₁.

their immunochemical properties. Results suggest that no differences exist between the antibodies developed against the normal adult and hereditary spherocytosis S proteins but did confirm the presence of specific precipitins for the auto-immune haemolytic anaemia S protein.

Résumé

Les propriétés immuno-chimiques des antisérums contre les protéines S de sphérocytose héréditaire et d'anémies auto-immuno-hémolytiques furent comparées. On ne trouva aucune différence entre les anticorps contre les protéines S normales de l'adulte et les anticorps contre les protéines S de la sphérocytose héréditaire. Par contre il existe des précipitines spécifiques pour les protéines S des anémies auto-immuno-hémolytiques.

Zusammenfassung

Es wurde untersucht, ob Antikeren gegen S-Proteine von hereditärer Sphärozytose und von autoimmuno-hämolysischen Anämien sich in ihren immunochemischen Eigenschaften unterscheiden. Aus den Ergebnissen geht hervor, daß keine Unterschiede zwischen Antikörpern gegen normales S-Protein des Erwachsenen und solchen gegen S-Proteine hereditärer Sphärozytosen, daß jedoch spezifische Präzipitine für die S-Proteine autoimmuno-hämolysischer Anämien vorkommen.

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Der fluoreszenzserologische Nachweis Leukocyten spezifischer Antikörper*

VON W. HARTL

Das von COONS UND KAPLAN (16, 17) angegebene Verfahren, menschliches γ -Globulin mit Hilfe Fluorescein-markierter Antiseren fluoreszenzoptisch histochemisch nachzuweisen, hat im Zuge einer vielseitigen Anwendung auf zahlreichen Gebieten der modernen Immunologie zum Verständnis immunbiologischer Vorgänge beitragen können. Obschon man sich auch auf dem immunhämatologischen Sektor bereits seit längerer Zeit mit den Möglichkeiten eines fluoreszenzserologischen Antikörpernachweises befaßt hat, liegen zur Serologie der Leukocyten gesicherte, methodische Erfahrungen bisher kaum vor. Für die Serodiagnostik des Lupus erythematodes disseminatus wurde ein fluoreszenzserologischer Anti-Humanglobulin-Test an Leukocytenkernen und anderen Substraten humanen und tierischen Ursprungs mehrfach als empfindliche und zuverlässige Methode beschrieben (1, 4, 11, 12, 26-60). Die klinische Verwendbarkeit dieses Tests zum Nachweis Leukocyten-spezifischer Iso- bzw. Autoantikörper ist dagegen bis heute nur in sehr beschränktem Umfange untersucht worden (11, 12, 24, 37, 50). Vor allem technischen Schwierigkeiten bei der Herstellung geeigneter Leukocytenpräparationen (31) und brauchbarer Antiseren (27, 40, 54, 56) sowie der vielfach ungenügenden Beherrschung der gerade bei den Leukocyten so störenden, unspezifischen Fluoreszenzeffekte (42-60) dürfte es zuzuschreiben sein, daß die in anderen Zweigen der Immunologie so bewährte Methodik im Bereich der Leukocytenserologie bisher keine breitere Anwendung gefunden hat.

*Ausgewerke vorgetragen am 9. Kongreß der Europäischen Gesellschaft für Hämatologie in Lissabon, 26.-31. August 1963.

Es war das Ziel der vorliegenden Versuchsreihe, zunächst möglichst exakt definierte, technische Voraussetzungen für einen fluoreszenzserologischen Anti Humanglobulin-Test (F AHG-T) an menschlichen Leukozyten zu schaffen der reproduzierbare Ergebnisse erwarten läßt. Der Test war dann im Hinblick auf seine Ausgüflichkeit als Nachweismethode Leukozyten-spezifischer Antikörper zu prüfen und hinsichtlich Empfindlichkeit und Spezifität mit dem in der Praxis bereits bewährten Leukozytenagglutinationstest (19 22 31 35 45 53) sowie dem Anti Humanglobulin-Konsumptionstest (45 49 57) in Vergleich zu setzen.

Methodik

Um möglichst übereinstimmende Versuchsbedingungen zu erreichen, wurde der F-AHG-T zunächst ausschließlich im Sinne eines indirekten Testes, d. h. an Leukozyten einer beschränkten Zahl von Spendern der Blutgruppe 0 mit möglichst vielen Patientenserum, durchgeführt.

Untersuchungsmaterial

Das einzelne, in die Untersuchungsreihe einbezogene Patientenserum wurden folgendermaßen aufgestellt:

1. *Kontrollpersonen*: 100, ohne Berücksichtigung der klinischen Diagnose ausählte Series des allgemeinen Krankengutes der Klinik, wobei hämatologische Erkrankungen, allergische Affektionen im weitesten Sinne, Rheumatismus- und Kollagenosefälle sowie ähnliche Patienten, die Bluttransfusionen erhalten hatten, ausgeschlossen wurden.

2. *Papierempfundene*: 19 Patienten, die zwischen 8 und 140 Bluttransfusionen erhalten hatten und teilweise (insgesamt 7) unter der Transfusionsbehandlung Unverträglichkeitserscheinungen zeigten, die bereits klinisch den Verdacht auf das Vorliegen leukozytärer Antikörper nahelegten (9). Im einzelnen handelte es sich um folgende Grundkiden: Akute Leukämie (1) unklare «Leukämie» (1), chronische Myelose (8) chronische Lymphadenose (1) aplastische Anämie (4) Panmyelopenie (1), Plasmocytom (1), Morbus Hodgkin (1) Colitis ulcerosa (1). Untersucht wurden ferner weitere 6 Patientenserum ohne Kenntnis der genauen Diagnose, die auf Grund multipler Bluttransfusionen stark positiven Leukozytenagglutinationstest (LAT) aufwiesen und von verschiedenen, anverträglichen Blutspendencentren in dankenswerter Weise zur Verfügung gestellt worden waren.

3. *Lepus erythematodes disseminatus*. 8 Fälle, bei denen die Diagnose klinisch und durch Nachweis des LE-Zellphänomens gesichert werden konnte. Bei 5 weiteren Patienten bestand auf Grund des klinischen Bildes der starke Verdacht auf das Vorliegen eines LED, der schlüssige Beweis konnte jedoch nicht erbracht werden.

4. *Agranulozytose und Anomalokytopenie*. Hier handelte es sich um 8 Patienten mit klinisch typischen Bild der Agranulozytose strenger Definition (8, 29). Das auslösende, möglicherweise Agens war nur in einem Falle einer Neutrophen-bedingten Immunsuppression an Hand der Anamnese zu eruieren, in den anderen Fällen mußte die Frage nach dem Allergen offen bleiben.

Herrn Prof. Dr. J. J. AN LOONEN, Amsterdam, sowie Herrn Prof. Dr. J. DAUBER, Paris, sei für die Unterstützung dieser Untersuchungen an dieser Stelle herzlich gedankt.

5. *Voraus:* 2 Kranke mit dem Vollbild der epheporifiniellen Ektoendose (Strav-Johnson-Syndrom) ohne klinische Hinweise auf eine Störung der Leukopoese waren durch positive Befunde im Rahmen der Untersuchungsreihe auffaßend. Unverändert wurden ferner 2 Fälle mit sogenanntem „alkalische-Agglutinin-Syndrom“, bei denen sich hochtitrige Kryohämagglutinine nachweisen ließen. Einer dieser Kranken bot auch klinisch ein ausgeprägtes Raynaud-Syndrom bei Kälteexposition (32). Auch er war unter der Beobachtung nie leukopenisch. Ein letzter Kranker litt an einer fortgeschrittenen Dermatomyositis, auch hier lagen unauffällige Blutbildverhältnisse und keine sonstigen abnormen serologischen Befunde vor.

Technik des fluoreszenzserologischen AHG-Tests

Leukocytenpräparation. Was zur Technik des LAT kürzlich ausführlich beschrieben (31) wurden Leukocyten von Spendern der Blutgruppe 0 Rh, die eine normale Erythrocytenreaktion bei unauffälligen Blutbild und Serum-elektrophoretischen Befund aufwiesen, durch Ammoniumchlorid-Hämolysen aus EDTA-Vollblut angereichert, 3mal in einer Glukose-haltigen, physiologischen Salzlösung nach Seltmann (zit. 39) gewaschen und schließlich in dünnem Ausstrich auf sorgfältig vorgereinigte Objektträger gebracht. Die luftgetrockneten Präparate kamen zur Fixation 30 Min. in wasserfreies Aceton, das durch Zusatz von fester Kohlensäure auf etwa -70°C abgekühlt worden war. Aufbewahrung der fixierten Präparate bei $+4^{\circ}\text{C}$ im Kühlschrank, jedoch nie länger als 24 Stunden bis zur endgültigen Verwendung.

Antisera. Verwendet wurden ausschließlich kommerzielle Antisera der Firma Syntex Company Orange, New Jersey und zwar: 1. im direkten Test (16, 17) 1. Anti-Humanglobulin vom Kaninchen (Vollserum) Fluorescein konjugiert. 2. Anti-Humanglobulin vom Kaninchen (Globulinfraction) Fluorescein konjugiert. – b) zum indirekten Test 3. Anti-Humanglobulin vom Kaninchen (Globulinfraction). 4. Anti-Kaninchen-Globulin vom Schaf (Globulinfraction) Fluorescein konjugiert.

Zur Minderung unspezifischer Fluoreszenzmerkmale wurden die Fluoreszenzmarkierten Antisera vor ihrer Verwendung zunächst mit Organotrichospender aus Schweineleber und anschließend zweimal mit getrockneten, plasmafrei gewaschenen, menschlichen Leukocyten (20 mg/ml) vorbehandelt. Dies geschah jeweils durch Inkubation über 30 Min. bei 37°C sowie nachfolgende Aufbewahrung im Eiskasten für 12 Stunden bei $+4^{\circ}\text{C}$. Zur Entfernung störender Zellreste wurden die Antisera schließlich hochtourig bei $+4^{\circ}\text{C}$ zentrifugiert.

Vor ihrer Verwendung wurden die AHG-Seren an Hand einer mit inkomplettem Anti-D sensibilisierten Erythrocyten Suspension standardisiert. Die Titer lagen für das konjugierte Anti-Humanglobulin vom Kaninchen bei 1:32 (Vollserum) bzw. 1:1280 (Globulinfraction). Titer des unmarkierten AHG-Globulins vom Kaninchen 1:5000.

Spezifischer Test. Die fixierten Leukocytenpräparate kamen zunächst 15 Min. in Phosphat-gepufferte, physiologische Kochsalzlösung (pH 7,2). Auf etwa 0,5 cm im Durchmesser große, vorgeschaltete Areale, die beim Abwischen der Objektträger ausgepart und feucht blieben, wurde jeweils 1 Tropfen Patientenserum gebracht und 2 Stunden in der feuchten Kammer bei 37°C inkubiert. Anschließend Abspülen des Serums durch Eintauchen der Objektträger in gepufferte Kochsalzlösung, jeweils 15 Min. bei dreimaligem Wechsel der Waschlösung.

Zum *direkten Test* Zugabe eines Tropfens vorbereiteten F-AHG-Serums in die angegebenen, feucht belassenen Areale des Objektträgers. Nach erneuter Inkubation über 60 Min. bei 37°C in der feuchten Kammer Abspülen des AHG-Serums durch intensive Waschung in Kochsalzlösung. Beurteilung der spezifischen Immunfluoreszenz der Leukocyten im Fluoreszenzmikroskop.

Beim indirekten Test wurde nach dem Auswaschen des Patientenserums das normale, also nicht fluoreszierende AHG-Serum vom Kanarienvogel dem Leukocytenpräparat zugegeben, und zwar in einer Verdünnung von 1:10 in physiologischer Kochsalzlösung. Inkubation des Ansatzes 1 Stunde bei 37°C und nachfolgende, intensive Waschung in physiologischer Kochsalzlösung. Schließlich wurde ein Tropfen des Fluorescein-konjugierten Anti-Kanarienvogel-Globulins vom Schaf zugegeben und nochmals 1 Stunde bei 37°C inkubiert. Die weitere Behandlung des Ansatzes erfolgte wie für den direkten Test beschrieben.

Die Spezifitätsprüfung positiver Befunde im Inhibitions- bzw. Adsorptionstest wurde in der für die histochemische Anwendung des F-AHG-T angegebenen Weise (16) durchgeführt.

Fluoreszenzrichtung. Die Untersuchung der fertigen Präparate geschah mit Hilfe des Mikroskopes «Orthomat» der Firma Leitz, Wetzlar und dem dazugehörigen Fluoreszenzschutz. Als Lichtquelle diente die Quecksilberhochdrucklampe HB 200 (Osram) Single-Extraktfilter BG 12 bei gelbem Sperrfilter. Mikroaufnahmen mit der Leitz-Fluoreszenzrichtung Orthomat.

Weitere analytische Methoden

1. **Leukocyten-Agglutinations-Test (LAT)** unter Verwendung der kürzlich beschriebenen, eigenen Methodik (31). Inkubation der Seren mit den Spenderleukocyten 1 Stunde bei 37°C in silikobeaderten Glasröhrchen. Bewertung der Testergebnisse an Hand der Größe des Agglutinationsphänomens.

2. **Anti-Humanoglobulin-Komplement-Test (AGCT)** (37) unter Verwendung der Technik von MOLLER (49). Antigen: lyophilisierte, hochgereinigte Leukocytenpräparation (41), die von Dr. MATTHEY, Blutspendenzentrum der französischen Armee, Paris, in dankenswerter Weise zur Verfügung gestellt wurde. Auf Grund der eigenen Erfahrung wurde ein positives Ergebnis registriert, wenn ein AHG-Serum-Verbrauch von mindestens 3 Dilutionsstufen eingetreten war. Bei 2 Dilutionsstufen Verdacht galt der Test als schwach positiv bei einer Stufe und weniger als negativ.

3. **Indirekter Leukocyten-Test** als Tropfenstest mit Patientenserum und Reagenz der Fa. Hyland, Los Angeles.

Ergebnisse

Im Rahmen der Versuchsreihe konnten einige wichtige, technische Voraussetzungen erarbeitet werden, bei deren Berücksichtigung mit dem F-AHG-Test zufriedenstellend reproduzierbare Ergebnisse zu erzielen sind.

Die Fixation der Leukocytenausstriche mit unterkühltem Aceton erwies sich als optimale Methode, die bei ausreichendem Fixationseffekt ein Minimum an Fluoreszenz durch unspezifische Anlagerung der F-AHG-Seren an die Leukocyten mit sich brachte. Fluoreszenzversuche mit Äthyl- bzw. Methylalkohol mußten wegen der teilweise stark ausgeprägten, unspezifischen Fluoreszenzeffekte, die sich auch durch nachhaltige Adsorptionsschwächung der Antisera bei oft erheblichem Titerverlust nicht beseitigen ließen, wieder aufgegeben werden. Aceton-fixierte Leukocytenpräparationen sind offenbar nur beschränkte Zeit, auch bei niedrigen Temperaturen (—20°C), haltbar. Länger als 24 Stunden aufbewahrte Ausstriche ließen mit positiven Kontrollseren keine eindeutige Immunfluoreszenz mehr erkennen.

Durch Vorbehandlung der fluoreszierenden Antisera mit Schweineleber-Organopulver und menschlichen Leukocyten war eine weitgehende, für die Differenzierung der

Unter den 25 *polytransfundierten* Patienten erbrachte der direkte F AHG-Test mit Vollserum vom Kaninchen 7mal ein deutlich positives Ergebnis. In 17 Fällen wurde ein schwach positiver Befund registriert, ein Serum war negativ. Bei Anwendung des indirekten Verfahrens war der Anteil der stark positiven Ausfälle mit 13 Seren deutlich höher als im direkten Test. 10 Seren ergaben ein schwach positives Resultat, in 2 Fällen fiel der Test negativ aus.

Der spezifische Fluoreszenzeffekt ließ sich in allen positiven Fällen im Bereich des Leukocytenplasmas lokalisieren. Eine uneherte Kernfluoreszenz der Leukocyten konnte in keinem Fall beobachtet werden.

Mit Hilfe des LAT war in 10 Fällen dieser Gruppe ein sehr stark positiver Ausfall zu beobachten, 6mal fiel der Test deutlich, gleich oft schwach positiv aus. 3 Seren führten zu keiner Leukocytenagglutination.

Der AGCT verlief 4mal sicher positiv – Verbrauch von mehr als 2 Dilutionsstufen des AHG-Serums – 10mal schwach positiv und 5mal negativ (bei 6 Seren wurde der AGCT nicht durchgeführt). Die Ergebnisse der einzelnen Tests sowie die Korrelation der Befunde zur Frequenz der stattgehabten Transfusionen sind in Abb. 1 zusammengestellt.

Bei 8 Kranken mit klinisch gesichertem *Lupus erythematoses disseminatus* zeigte der F AHG-Test bei direktem und indirektem Ansatz in allen Fällen ein stark positives Ergebnis. Die spezifische Fluoreszenz der Leukocytenkerne als ein für den LED charakteristischer Befund, war in 3 Fällen besonders deutlich. Bei den restlichen Seren wurde, vor allem bei Anwendung des indirekten Testes, ein besonders intensiver Fluoreszenzeffekt der Gesamtzelle beobachtet, der möglicherweise die Fluoreszenz des Leukocytenkernes überlagerte.

Der LAT war in dieser Gruppe, von einer Ausnahme abgesehen, negativ. Der AGCT erwies sich in 5 Fällen als positiv in einem weiteren als negativ (2 Seren konnten nicht untersucht werden). Der Thymonukleoprotein-Latex Test (HYLAKO) führte 6mal zu einem positiven Ergebnis, 2mal fiel er negativ aus.

Bei 3 weiteren Kranken bestand klinisch starker Verdacht auf das Vorliegen eines LED bzw. einer Erkrankung aus dem Formenkreis der Kollagenosen, ohne daß die Diagnose serologisch und durch Nachweis des LE-Zell-Phänomens einwandfrei zu sichern war. Zwei dieser Seren wiesen deutlich positive F AHG-Tests auf,

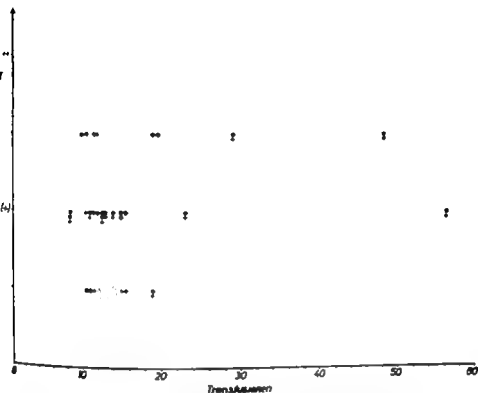


Abb. 1 Zusammenstellung der Ergebnisse mit dem Fluorescent Anti-Humanglobulin-Test (•), dem Leukocytenagglutinationsindex (|) und dem Anti-Humanglobulin-Koeffizienten (+) bei 19 polytransfundierten Patienten in Korrelation zur Zahl der transfundierten Erythrozyten. 1 der vertikalen | = 1 Patientenserum.

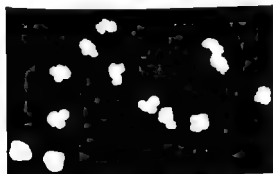


Abb. 2 Positive Kernfluoreszenz der Leukocyten im Fluorescent-AHG-Test bei einem Fall von Lupus erythematoses disseminatus.

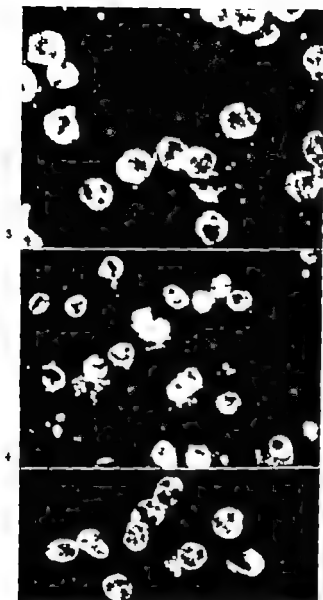


Abb. 3-5. Plasmafluoreszenz der Leukocyten im AHG-Test bei Agranulozytose (3), Transfusions-bedingten Isoantikörpern (4) bzw. häm. Agglutinin-Syndrom (5)

3 weitere waren schwach positiv. Dabei ließ sich vor allem in einem dieser Fälle eine intensive Kernfluoreszenz beobachten. Der ACGT ergab 2 positive und 3 schwach positive Resultate, einer dieser Verdachtsfälle hatte einen positiven LAT

In 7 Fällen von *Agranulocytose* und bei 2 weiteren Kranken mit Verdacht auf medikamentös ausgelöste Immunleukopenie waren die Ergebnisse mit dem direkten F-AHG-Test uneinheitlich. Ein Kranker dieser Gruppe bot eine deutlich positive Reaktion, ein weiterer bei dem klinisch Verdacht auf eine Immunleukopenie bei INH-Behandlung bestand, ließ ebenfalls eine deutlich ausgeprägte Immunfluoreszenz der Testleukocyten erkennen. 5 Seren lieferten ein nur schwach positives Ergebnis, 2 waren negativ. Die Verwendung der indirekten Methode führte zu einem im wesentlichen identischen Ergebnis.

Der LAT fiel in 4 Fällen dieser Gruppe mit der Mehrzahl der getesteten Spenderleukocyten positiv aus. Die restlichen Seren führten nur in Ausnahmefällen bei Verwendung von Leukocyten-suspensionen einzelner Spender zu mehr oder weniger stark positiver Agglutination, so daß die Ergebnisse lediglich als bedingt positiv zu bewerten waren. Der AGCT brachte nur bei einem Serum ein deutlich positives, bei 3 weiteren Fällen ein schwach positives Resultat. Bei den restlichen Seren ließ die Methode im Stich.

Bei 5 Patienten des allgemeinen Krankengutes, die klinisch keinerlei Hinweise auf eine Immunopathie des Blutes, insbesondere des leukocyitären Systems, erkennen ließen, wurde ein positiver Ausfall des F-AHG-Testes beobachtet. Unter diesen 2 Patienten boten zwei das typische Bild der plurifokalen Ektodermose (Stevens-Johnson-Syndrom). 2 weitere litten an einem sogenannten »Kälte-Agglutinin-Syndrom«. Beim letzten Kranken dieser Gruppe bestand eine fortgeschrittene Dermatomyositis. In allen Fällen handelte es sich um teilweise ausgeprägte, spezifische Fluoreszenz des Leukocytenplasmas, die sich sowohl mit der direkten als auch mit der indirekten Methodik darstellen ließ. Leukocyten-Agglutinine konnten in allen 5 Fällen nachgewiesen werden. Bei den Kranken mit Kälte-Agglutinin-Syndrom fiel der LAT bei Temperaturen zwischen 20 und 4 °C besonders stark positiv aus.

Diskussion

Ein dem klassischen Anti-Humanglobulin-(AHG)-Test («Coombs-Test») analoges Verfahren zum Nachweis leukocyten-spezifischer Antikörper hat sich bisher technisch nicht realisieren lassen. Stattdessen nimmt der AHG-Konsumptions-Test (AGCT) in seinen verschiedenen, technischen Modifikationen (20, 39, 49

57) in der serologischen Praxis einen breiten Raum ein, während andere Verfahren leukocytaire Iso- bzw. Auto-Antikörper nachzuweisen, demgegenüber stark in den Hintergrund treten (45). So hat die Methodik, mit Hilfe Fluoreszenzmarkierter AHG-Seren spezifisches Antikörper-Globulin an Leukocyten fluoreszenzoptisch cytochemisch darzustellen, bis heute kaum praktische Bedeutung erlangt. Dabei bietet die Fluoreszenzserologische Technik gegenüber zahlreichen anderen Nachweismethoden auf diesem Gebiet wesentliche Vorteile, die eine umfangreichere Anwendung als bisher gerechtfertigt erscheinen lassen.

Allerdings sind, wie die vorliegenden Untersuchungen ergeben haben, einige wichtige Gesichtspunkte hinsichtlich der technischen Durchführung des Testes zu berücksichtigen, damit ein einwandfreies Funktionieren gewährleistet ist. Die Testleukocyten müssen vor ihrer Verwendung sorgfältig in einer geeigneten Salzlösung eiweißfrei gewaschen werden, da Plasmaproteinreste an der Leukocytenoberfläche (2, 52, 59) unter Umständen zu falsch positiven Reaktionen mit AHG-Seren führen können wie in früheren Untersuchungen gezeigt wurde (30). Dabei muß der Waschprozeß so schonend wie möglich vor sich gehen, damit die Integrität der Zellen gewahrt bleibt. Die kürzlich angegebene Methode zur Isolierung menschlicher Leukocyten aus peripherem Blut (31) wird diesen Forderungen weitgehend gerecht. Zur Fixation der Leukocytenausstriche ist unterkühltes, wasserfreies Aceton anderen Fixationsmitteln vorzuziehen, da bei diesem Vorgehen die Tendenz der Leukocyten, fluoreszierende Antiseren unspezifisch anzulagern (42) auf ein Minimum beschränkt bleibt. Durch Adsorptionsbehandlung der Antiseren mit Organpulver aus Schweineleber bzw. menschlichen Leukocyten ist die unspezifische Fluorochromierung der Testzellen auf ein Mindestmaß zu reduzieren, so daß sie bei der Beurteilung der Immunfluoreszenz nicht mehr stört. Dabei hält sich der mit der Vorbehandlung verbundene Titerverlust der Antiseren in annehmbaren Grenzen.

Die Prüfung des F-AHG-Testes im Rahmen der immunhämologischen Diagnostik an einem vorerst zahlenmäßig noch beschränkten Untersuchungsgut hat seine Brauchbarkeit unter Beweis gestellt. Bei der Untersuchung von Seren polytransfundierter Kranker sowie bei Fällen von Agranulocytose bzw. Immunleukopenie konnte in einem vergleichsweise hohen Prozentsatz der Antikörpernachweis fluoreszenzserologisch erbracht werden. Aller

dings fiel der Anteil schwachpositiver Reaktionen, vor allem bei Anwendung der direkten Technik, zum Teil noch relativ hoch aus. Die Zuverlässigkeit des FAHG-Tests beim Nachweis von LED-typischen Auto-Antikörpern ist mehrfach beschrieben worden (1 4 11 12, 23 26 53 59 60). In den eigenen Versuchen mit Leukocyten als Testsubstrat konnte die hohe Empfindlichkeit bestätigt werden. Außerdem fiel die besonders intensiv ausgeprägte Immunfluoreszenz an den Testleukocyten beim Arbeiten mit diesen Seren auf.

Die spezifische «apfelgrüne» Immunfluoreszenz war in den meisten positiven Fällen – so beim Nachweis transfusionsbedingter Iso-Antikörper (s. Abb. 4) sowie bei den untersuchten Agranulocytose-Seren (s. Abb. 3) – im Bereich des Leukocytenplasmas zu beobachten, ein Befund, auf den bereits früher wiederholt hingewiesen wurde (1 11 12, 24 50). Bei 3 LED-Seren kam es dagegen zu einer mehr oder weniger selektiven, spezifischen Fluorochromierung der Leukocytenkerne (s. Abb. 2) während bei den restlichen Fällen von LED lediglich eine, meist sehr intensive, spezifische Fluoreszenz der Gesamtzellen auftrat, ohne daß sich der Zellkern fluoreszenzoptisch näher differenzieren ließ. Es liegt nahe, diesen Befund, dessen nähere Analyse durch Adsorptionsversuche und Anwendung des FAHG-Tests auf einzelne Zellfraktionen noch aussteht (24 51) auf leukocytäre Antikörpergemische, deren Spezifität gegen verschiedene Zellbestandteile des Leukocyten gerichtet ist, zurückzuführen, wobei technisch-präparative Ursachen ebenfalls in Erwägung zu ziehen sind.

Bei optimaler technischer Ausführung des FAHG-Tests war der Anteil falsch-positiver Ergebnisse im Rahmen der Untersuchungen an Kontrollseren relativ gering. Dabei scheint das indirekte Verfahren etwas mehr belastet zu sein als das direkte. Welche Ursachen den unspezifisch-positiven Reaktionsausfällen im einzelnen zugrunde liegen und ob Beziehungen zu bestimmten Erkrankungsformen, z. B. Leberaffektionen, Dysproteinämien usw. bestehen, bleibt anhand eines größeren Untersuchungsgutes abzuklären.

Auf Grund der bisherigen Erfahrungen mit der Fluoreszenzserologischen Methodik kann festgestellt werden, daß der FAHG-Test ein hohes Maß an Spezifität besitzt. Bei der teilweise doch ausgeprägten Tendenz einiger Leukocyten-serologischer Untersuchungsmethoden zu unspezifisch positiven Reaktionen (59) ist diese Tatsache besonders hervorzuheben. Die Empfindlichkeit des Tests

ist zwar je nach der Art der nachzuweisenden Antikörper unterschiedlich im ganzen gesehen jedoch für praktisch-diagnostische Zwecke ausreichend. Im Hinblick auf die hohe Sensibilität beim Nachweis LED-typischer Antikörper erscheint er als Suchreaktion bei klinischen Verdachtsfällen besonders geeignet. Auf Grund seiner serodiagnostischen Breite kann man mit seiner Hilfe praktisch das gesamte Spektrum leukocytenspezifischer Antikörper erfassen, was deshalb von Wichtigkeit ist da zahlreiche andere Methoden zum Nachweis des LED erfahrungsgemäß infolge ihrer hohen Spezifität relativ wenig sensibel sind oder vor allem in der akuten Phase der Erkrankung, durch Hemmung der leukocyitären Phagocytose Vorgänge negativ bleiben können.

Positive serologische Befunde bei der Agranulocytose bzw. der medikamentösen Immunleukopenie werden im allgemeinen selten erhoben. Nach der Erfahrung der meisten Autoren läßt der Leukocyten Agglutinationstest vielfach im Stich, auch der Anti Human-globulin Konsumptionstest bringt nur in einem geringen Prozentsatz der Fälle positive Resultate (18, 35 39 45 53 59). Die vorliegenden Untersuchungsergebnisse berechtigen zu der Annahme daß gerade für die Agranulocytose und verwandte Krankheitszustände von der Einbeziehung des F-AHG Tests in die serologischen Routinemethoden unter Umständen ein diagnostischer Fortschritt zu erwarten ist.

In 2 Fällen von kalte Agglutinin-Syndrom konnte das gegen die Leukocyten gerichtete Prinzip durch positiven F-AHG Test und spezifische Fluoreszenz des Zellplasmas nachgewiesen werden (Abb. 5). Früher mehrfach geäußerte Zweifel an der Existenz Leukocyten-aktiver Kryoagglutinine, die vor allem auf Grund der Kritik an der Methode des LA Tests («mixed agglutination») (10) laut wurden, konnten durch die Fluoreszenz serologischen Befunde ausgeräumt werden (32). Den wenigen im Schrifttum veröffentlichten Fällen von Dermatomyositis (12 26) mit Fluoreszenz serologischem Antikörpernachweis gegen Kernsubstanzen konnte ein eigener hinzugefügt werden, dessen Serum einen positiven F-AHG-Test mit Leukocyten aufwies. Dabei muß offenbleiben, ob es sich in diesen Fällen um Antikörper idiosyncratischer Spezifität handelt. Durch positive Reaktion im F-AHG Test fielen weiterhin 2 Patienten auf, die klinisch das Vollbild des sogenannten «STEVENS-JOHNSON-Syndroms» boten. Positive serologische Befunde an Leukocyten bei dieser Erkrankung sind unseres Wissens bisher nicht beschrieben worden.

Die Annahme liegt nahe, daß es sich hier um den Ausdruck einer partiellen Gemeinschaft von Haut und Leukocyten-Antigenen handelt, die von der Transplantationsimmunologie her bekannt ist (21-59). Die weitere Klärung dieser Frage dürfte für die Kenntnis der Pathogenese des Krankheitsbildes von Interesse sein.

Die Gegenüberstellung der Untersuchungsergebnisse mit dem LA-Test, dem AGC-Test und dem FAHG-Test gestattet aus methodischen Gründen lediglich einen orientierenden Überblick und erlaubt keine detaillierten Rückschlüsse hinsichtlich der Aussagefähigkeit der einzelnen Methoden für die immunhämatologische Praxis. Auffällig ist aber der relativ hohe Anteil positiver Resultate des LA-Tests in der Gruppe der polytransfunden Kranken, was die Empfindlichkeit der Methode beim Nachweis transfusionsbedingter Isoantikörper erneut unter Beweis stellt (18-35-53-59). Andererseits konnte an Hand der Versuche die hinreichend bekannte, oft viel zu wenig in Rechnung gestellte Tendenz des LA-Tests zu unspezifisch-positiven Ausfällen auf neue bestätigt werden (8-33-35-59). Der wesentliche Vorteil der Fluoreszenz-immunologischen Methodik für die Serologie der Leukocyten liegt in der Möglichkeit, nicht nur komplette (agglutinierende) sondern auch inkomplette (univalente) Antikörper zu erfassen wie sie als Auto-Antikörper bei den verschiedensten Krankheitszuständen vorkommen. Darüberhinaus wird man in Zukunft mit Hilfe des Tests Antikörper gegen einzelne Zellelemente der leukocytären Reihe unterschiedlicher Herkunft (und verschiedenen Reifegrades?) fluoreszenzoptisch differenzieren, sowie leukocytäre Antikörper die gegen Partialantigene der Leukocytenzelle gerichtet sind, nachweisen und lokalisieren können. Bis sich diese, auf einigen Arbeitsgebieten (5-7-15-28-36-43-44-58) bereits mit Erfolg wahrgenommenen methodischen Vorzüge in vollem Umfange ausschöpfen lassen, werden noch zahlreiche Verbesserungen der präparativen Voraussetzungen sowie eine weitere Anpassung der Fluoreszenz-serologischen Technik an die Erfordernisse immunhämatologischer Arbeitsmethoden erforderlich sein.

Zusammenfassung

Es werden technische Richtlinien zur Durchführung eines Fluoreszenz-serologischen Anti-Hämunglobulin-Tests an menschlichen Leukocyten angegeben und erste Erfahrungen mit diesem Test an einem immunhämatologischen Untersuchungsgut mitgeteilt. Die Vorteile des Tests für die Serodiagnostik von Immunopathien der Leukocyten werden diskutiert.

Summary

Technical directions for carrying out fluorescent antiglobulin test on human leukocytes are given together with report on experience with this test in an immunological investigation. The advantages of this method for serological diagnosis of leukocyte immunopathy are discussed.

Résumé

Les indications techniques pour un test antiglobulinique fluorescent avec des globules blancs humains, ainsi que les premiers résultats d'expériences immunologiques avec ce test sont communiqués. On discute les avantages de cette méthode pour le sérodiagnostic de l'immunopathie leucocytaire.

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Oxidation of Haemoglobin by Hydralazine plus Leukocytes and Its Facilitation in Seras from Hydralazine Sensitive Patients

By P. NORDQVIST, E. PERSSON, L. RYTTFINGER and M. LJUNGBEREN

Sodium ethylenediaminoacetic acid (EDTA) and leukocytes added to a suspension of erythrocytes or a solution of oxyhaemoglobin oxidize the haemoglobin to methaemoglobin (2). The scope of the present investigation is to show that another metal binding agent hydralazine, widely used in medical therapy, can substitute for EDTA in this process. Further will be shown that presence of serum from patients sensitive to hydralazine facilitates this reaction.

Material and Methods

1. The experimental arrangement and the solutions used have previously been described in detail (3).

2. *Hydralazine solution*: 50 mg Apressofine® was dissolved in 10 ml. saline. Approximately 0.05 ml. of this solution was added to 10 ml. erythrocyte suspension or haemoglobin solution.

3. *Seras from cases hypersensitive to hydralazine*. Two patients were admitted to the hospital with haemolytic anaemia, where the medical history and course strongly indicated the anaemia to be due to hydralazine sensitivity. The seras were obtained from these patients since the effect of hydralazine on the haemoglobin was noticed by chance when serological investigations were carried out. The serum from case 1 (S.K. 21 06 II / 51 Med. clin. I), erythrocytes and leukocytes from donors and hydralazine were added. The serum of case 2 (H.H. 11 07 03 / 60 Med. clin. I) was at the date of the tests haemolytic to such an extent that it could be used directly as an oxyhaemoglobin solution. Only limited amounts of samples were available.

4. *Leukocyte and erythrocyte suspensions and control seras*: With one exception reported below they were prepared from healthy donors. The leukocyte suspensions according to method described by Nordqvist et al. 1961 (3) and the erythrocyte suspensions and control seras as described by Nordqvist et al. 1963 (2).

Results

Hydralazine participates in changing oxyhaemoglobin into methaemoglobin when added with leukocytes to an erythrocyte

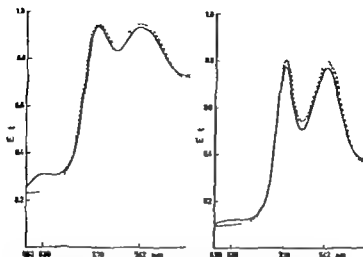


Fig 1 *Left*: Mixture of oxyhaemoglobin solution, serum and leukocytes from donor with hydralazine. *Right*: Mixture of erythrocytes, serum and leukocytes from donor with hydralazine. Incubation time 9 hours at 37 °C. Script line indicates before, dotted line after addition of cyanide.

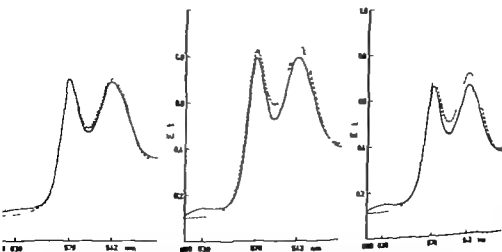


Fig 2 *Left*: Mixture of erythrocytes from case 1 serum and leukocytes from donor and hydralazine. *Middle*: Mixture of oxyhaemoglobin solution, serum and leukocytes from donor with hydralazine. *Right*: Mixture of erythrocytes and leukocytes from donor, serum from case 1 and hydralazine.

Script line indicates before, dotted line after addition of cyanide.

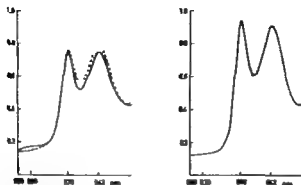


Fig. 1. *Left:* Mixture of serum from case 2 with leukocytes from donor and hydralazine. *Right:* Mixture of serum from case 2 and leukocytes from donor. Incubation time 5 hours at 37° C. Straight line indicates before, dotted line after addition of cyanide.

suspension or an oxyhaemoglobin solution. This reaction is far more rapid, when the oxyhaemoglobin is free in solution than when it is bound inside the erythrocytes (fig. 1)

However when the reaction was carried out on intact erythrocytes suspended in serum from case 1 the speed of the reaction was almost as rapid as when an oxyhaemoglobin solution was used. Contrary to this any facilitation of the reaction was not observed when erythrocytes from case 1 were immersed in serum from a healthy donor (fig. 2)

Hydralazine added with leukocytes directly to serum from case 2 oxidized the ferrohaemoglobin to ferrihaemoglobin, which did not happen when only leukocytes were added (fig. 3)

Discussion

Hydralazine is a chelating agent (1) containing aminogroups like EDTA. A possible explanation for the action of these substances in the oxidation of ferrohaemoglobin to ferrihaemoglobin has been given previously (2). At the time the serum of the patients were investigated they contained no methaemoglobin before addition of hydralazine and leukocytes. Therefore we do not know if formation of methaemoglobin had any significance for the toxic reaction, in these cases, or not. However a large number of useful drugs possess

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Acid Phosphatase Activity in Normal Human Blood and Bone Marrow Cells as Demonstrated by the Azo Dye Method

By L. ROZENSAJN G. MARSHAK AND P. EFRATI

Acid phosphatase activity in peripheral blood and bone marrow cells, was first demonstrated by RABINOVICH et al. (1) and STORRI et al. (2). Both workers have used the method of GOMORI for this purpose, and have demonstrated enzyme activity only in bone marrow smears, while getting negative results in peripheral blood. HAIGHT (3) and VALENTINE et al. (4) using biochemical technics, have demonstrated enzyme activity in lymphocytes and granulocytes from peripheral blood. In 1962 LÖFFLER AND BERGHOFF (5) reported on use of Azo Dye for demonstration of acid phosphatase activity in cells of the haemopoietic system.

In the present study we tried to examine and estimate, both qualitatively and quantitatively acid phosphatase activity in peripheral blood and bone marrow cells. With the coupling Azo dye method of PRAGER (6) with several modifications, we showed enzyme activity in all the nucleated cells of the haemopoietic system.

Materials and Methods

Peripheral blood smears were taken from 25 healthy volunteers (nurses, medical students and hospital personnel) varying in age from 19—34 years, half of them male. Bone marrow smears were obtained from iliac crests of 18 patients, and all of them were within normal morphological limits, as demonstrated by the May-Griewald-Giemsa staining technique. In addition, peripheral blood smears from 10 rats, and 10 $C_{57}H$ mice were examined.

The substrate consisted of

- Sodium alpha naphthyl acid phosphate .40 mg*
- Fast-Gerboet salt G.B.C. 50 mg*
- Acetate buffer 0.1 M, pH 5 50 ml

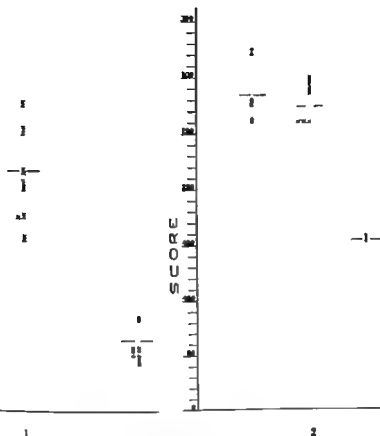


Fig. 1 Acid phosphatase activity in lymphocytes (o) and neutrophil granulocytes (x) in peripheral blood.

Fig. 2 Acid phosphatase activity in neutrophil granulocytes with eroded nucleus in bone marrow: mature neutrophil granulocytes (x), promonoblasts (o) and normoblasts (x).

It was mixed thoroughly and after passing through filter paper was ready for use.

All smears were allowed to dry in room air, then fixed for 7 minutes in 40 formaldehyde vapour. Immediately washed in running tap-water for 3-5 minutes and allowed to dry. Subsequently the smears were incubated in the substrate for 1 hour at 37°C, then were washed with tap-water and dried in air. Contrast staining was done for 5 minutes with haematoxylin Harris, then the preparations were washed in tap-water and after being dried in air they were protected by cover glass with glycerine jelly.

Acid phosphatase activity was demonstrated only in the cytoplasm of all cells (except erythrocytes) in the shape of brown granules of various size and occasionally in the form of dark brown crystals. When smears were treated with substrate without sodium alpha-naphthyl-phosphate, shining yellow pigment precipitates were seen in the cytoplasm, nucleus and intercellular space. This yellow pigment appeared entirely different from the granules expressing acid phosphatase activity.

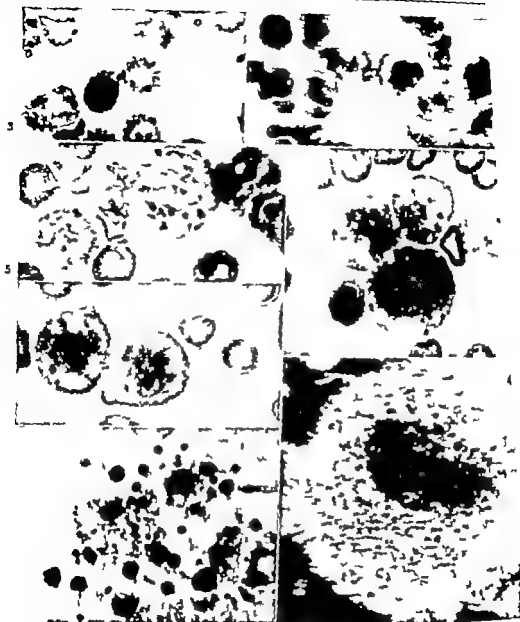


Fig 3 Lymphocyte with one central granule in the cytoplasm (peripheral blood).

Fig 4 Two neutrophil granulocytes in the center and at the margin monocyte and lymphocyte (peripheral blood)

Fig 5 Myelocytes and metamyelocytes with strong acid phosphatase activity (bone marrow)

Fig 6 Young myeloid cells, strong acid phosphatase activity in eosinophilic myelocytes (bone marrow)

Fig 7 Pronormoblasts with slight acid phosphatase activity (bone marrow).

Fig 8 A mature megakaryocyte with strong acid phosphatase activity (bone marrow).

Fig 9 A reticulum cell with very strong acid phosphatase activity

Fixation of the smears for 5 minutes with methyl alcohol destroyed all activity. Incubation at 4°C showed low grade activity which increased when the temperature was raised to 20°C and reached its maximum at 37°C. At 56°C, enzyme activity decreased to a level similar to that seen at 4°C.

In all peripheral blood smears, 100 neutrophils and 100 lymphocytes were counted. In bone marrow smears in addition to 100 mature neutrophils, 100 granulocytes with round nucleus and 100 proerythroblasts were counted.

Acid phosphatase activity in each cell was graded as follows

- 0 no stained granules
- ± 1-2 intermediate granules or 1-5 small granules
- ++ 2-4 large granules or 4-8 intermediate granules
- +++ 4-8 large granules or 8-16 intermediate granules or many small granules
- ++++ More than that.

The sum of the score of 100 granulocytes or 100 lymphocytes or the other cells described above constitutes the score as used in this study

Results

Peripheral blood

1) Neutrophilic granulocytes revealed intermediate activity scattered in the cytoplasm in the form of brown granules, mostly small to intermediate in size but occasionally large. There was no special arrangement of these granules, but occasionally they formed a frame surrounding the nucleus (fig. 1-4).

2) Eosinophilic granulocytes showed strong activity. The eosinophilic «specific» granules stained greenish-grey and on that background were seen the dark brown granules, mostly large to intermediate in size and a lesser amount of smaller granules.

3) Lymphocytes presented slight activity, a few small granules were observed (fig. 1-3).

4) Monocytes disclosed strong activity, the cytoplasm was full of granules (fig. 4).

5) Thrombocytes: acid phosphatase activity was demonstrated as dark brown dots.

In the peripheral blood smears in 10 rats there was activity of 1-2 ± in the mononuclear cells. The granulocytes showed no activity. In the C₃H mice, both mononuclear cells and granulocytes demonstrate enzyme activity.

Bone marrow

1) Young granulocytes: Due to difficulties in estimating the stage of maturity the younger cells were considered together as «round nuclear» cells, these cells showed strong activity (fig. 2, 5-6).

- 2) Mature granulocytes revealed strong activity (fig 2)
- 3) Pronormoblasts and basophilic normoblasts showed slight activity in the form of small granules (fig 2 7)
- 4) Mature normoblasts A small number of cells showed positive staining with one or several granules (fig 2)

Table I

		Score	Range of score	0	Degree of activity,				
					+	++	+++	++++	
	Round nucleus cells	284	231-324	0.1	4.7	30.3	42.6	22.6	
Bone	Mature neutrophils	273	217-300	1.1	7.7	30.4	57.8	22.9	
Marrow	Pronormoblasts and basophilic normoblasts	147	92-188	10.7	40.7	39.2	8.3	0.7	
cells	Mature normoblasts	32	4-56	70.1	28	1.9	0	0	
Peripheral	Lymphocytes	85	21-91	40.7	54.2	4.6	0.4	0.1	
Blood	neutrophilic granulocytes	217.7	140-305	0.8	28.7	34.3	28.6	1.6	
cells									

5) Megakaryocytes Very strong acid phosphatase activity was demonstrated in the cytoplasm in the form of large, intermediate and small granules increasing with cellular maturity (fig 8)

6) Plasma cells Strong activity was demonstrated especially in the chromophobic zone.

7) Reticulum cells Very strong activity was demonstrated throughout the cytoplasm. In addition to granules, larger amorphous masses of brown material were seen. The latter on some occasions obscured the nucleus (fig 9)

8) Tissue mast cells showed very strong activity sometimes large masses of brown material obscured the nucleus.

The average degree of activity the score and the range of scores of peripheral blood and bone marrow is summarized in table I

Acid phosphatase activity in peripheral blood is summarized in fig 1 Acid phosphatase activity in bone marrow is summarized in fig 2.

Discussion

Acid phosphatase activity in peripheral blood was examined by HAIGHT *et al.* (3) using biochemical techniques with disodium phenyl phosphate I as substrate and by doing differential cell counts they were able to demonstrate that acid phosphatase activity was greater in lymphocytes than in granulocytes. Using the method described above we have found greater enzymatic activity in granulocytes as compared with lymphocytes (fig 2). The examination of acid phosphatase activity by STUART (2) and RABENOVICH (1) in bone marrow and peripheral blood revealed activity in bone marrow only. One may assume that our method is more sensitive, making it possible to demonstrate activity in the form of granules, rather than as a different staining as in the method of GOMORI (7) which they used. According to fig 2 one gets the impression that the enzyme activity is strongest in young cells and decreases with cell maturity both in the myeloid and erythropoietic cell lines, although the numerical differences between them in the myeloid cells are rather small. LÖFFLER AND BERGHOFF (5) who used fixation by cold acetone came to similar results.

On the other hand in the thrombopoietic system the enzymatic activity increases with cell maturity. The percentage of mature granulocytes giving a 3 to 4+ positive reaction in the bone marrow is greater than the number of cells of the same type exhibiting a similar reaction in peripheral blood. One may speculate that this difference is due to difference in age.

Summary

Acid phosphatase activity was demonstrated in all nucleated cells of human blood and bone marrow using an azo dye technique. The activity was greater in granulocytes than in lymphocytes. In the bone marrow young cells show greater enzyme activity than mature cells except for megakaryocytes where the reverse is true. The results obtained differ from those reported by others, presumably because of the greater sensitivity of the method employed. In addition, blood smears of rats and mice were examined.

Résumé

A l'aide d'un procédé au colorant azoïque on démontre la phosphatase acide dans toutes les cellules hématiques nucléées du sang et de la moelle osseuse. L'activité de la phosphatase était plus intense dans les granulocytes. Dans la moelle osseuse l'activité enzymatique des cellules jeunes est plus grande que dans les cellules matures, sauf pour les mégacaryocytes chez lesquels on trouve le contraire. Les résultats obtenus diffèrent de ceux rapportés par d'autres auteurs et expliquent par une plus grande sensibilité de la méthode. En plus on examine des frottis de sang de rats et de souris.

Zusammenfassung

Mit Hilfe eines Anfarbstoff-Verfahrens gelang es, in allen kernhaltigen Zellen von menschlichem Blut und Knochenmark saure Phosphatase nachzuweisen. Die Aktivität war in den Granulocyten größer als in den Lymphocyten. Im Knochenmark zeigten jugendliche Zellen eine größere Enzymaktivität als reife Zellen mit Ausnahme der Megakaryocyten, die sich entgegengesetzt verhielten. Die Ergebnisse weichen von denjenigen anderer Autoren ab, was wahrscheinlich auf die größere Empfindlichkeit der hier angewandten Methode zurückzuführen ist. Es wurden ferner Blutausstriche von Ratten und Mäusen untersucht.

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Varia

XIIth Annual Colloquium, St. Jans Hospital, Bruges April 30 — May 3, 1964

Protides of the Biological Fluids

Topics: I. Phylogeny of proteins. — II. Tumor proteins. — III. Urinary glyco- and mucoproteins. — IV. Methods.

Round Tables: I. Tumor proteins. — II. Methods. — III. Proteins of diagnostic significance.

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Wickij and Britton. Disorders of the Blood. Churchill Ltd., London 1963. 9th ed. by C. L. G. Britton, 570 p. Price 100 sh.

This new edition of the well known textbook shows many changes in order to incorporate the remarkable progress made in many parts of haematology. Completely rewritten (and very well done) were the chapters on Cytochemistry of Haemopoietic (by F. G. J. Mayrhofer) and on Blood Groups and Blood Transfusions (by GEORGE H. TERRY).

It is regrettable that the Index of Authors had to be omitted for lack of space. A number of typographical errors have crept into the text particularly regarding the names of the authors of quoted papers.

However these are minor blemishes. Undoubtedly the book with its great number of good black and white and color illustrations, its sound clinical judgement is lucid, valuable and very readable presentation of today's haematology.

G. ROSENOW New York

John H. Harris. The Red Cell. Harvard University Press, Cambridge/Massachusetts 1963. 428 p. \$ 5.75.

This is a very comprehensive monography of the red cell with over 2000 references of the literature. It was originally written for the use in courses of haematology for advanced students. The main emphasis is laid on physiology, biochemistry and pathology. Starting from this basis, short clinical descriptions are given concerning e.g. the Porphyrias, Sickle Cells Disease, Polycythemia, Anemias of the various types and etiology.

The physiological and pathological chapters are so complete and so well presented that many hematologists will highly value and use this monograph for its detailed information and references.

G. ROSENOW New York

John W. Harris and Daniel L. Harrigan: Case Development Problems in Hematology. Series 1. The Red Cell, Problems 1-8. Harvard University Press, Cambridge/Massachusetts 1963. 196 p. Price \$ 3.25.

The little book supplements the text material of the "Red Cell" (reviewed above). It gives case reports for the student as a learning device in order to test his diagnostic and physiological knowledge by asking questions and providing the correct answers.

G. Rossow, New York

Zyto- und Histochemie in der Hämatologie. Neuntes Freiburger Symposium an der medizinischen Universitätsklinik vom 25. bis 27. Oktober 1962. Hg. von Hans Verker. Zugleich Symposium der Gesellschaft Deutscher Hämatologen. Springer Verlag, Berlin 1963. 000 S., 00 Abb., 00 T. b. Preis DM 98.

Referate und Diskussionsbeiträge dieses Symposiums werden in extenso wiedergegeben. Die behandelten Themen lauten: 1. Nukleinsäuren und Proteine, 2. Enzyme, 3. Polysaccharide und Lipide, 4. Eisen und andere Mineralien. Die Behandlung dieses neuen und schnell sich ausbreitenden Gebietes der modernen Hämatologie ist sehr umfassend. Inhaltsverzeichnis, Sachverzeichnis und Darstellung sind vorzüglich. Der interessierte Forscher und Arzt findet darin nicht nur die neuesten Ergebnisse, sondern kann das Buch als wertvolle Informationsquelle über hämatologische Zyto- und Histochemie benutzen.

P. Fauci, Zürich

From Medical Department B, Bispebjerg Hospital, Copenhagen

Pure Red Cell Anaemia and Thymoma*

By STIG BRYDE ANDERSEN AND JØRGEN LADEFOGED

Not more than about 75 cases of pure red cell anaemia have been reported since KAZNELSON (1) first described this disorder in 1922. MATRAS AND PRIEREL (2) reported in 1928 a case history of a patient with this anaemia and thymoma, and since then the association of thymoma and pure red cell anaemia has been reported in 43 cases (3) a coincidence far exceeding a chance relationship. No aetiological explanation has been offered for this relationship, because the function of the thymus has been obscure. Recent experiments have shown that the thymus plays an important role in the development of the immunological functions of the organism (4). The purpose of this paper is to summarize the syndrome, to report another case and finally in the light of newly acquired knowledge on the function of the thymus, to give an obvious explanation of the pathogenesis of the syndrome.

The clinical picture and the course of the disease show a clinical and pathological entity. Based on 32 cases, 29 from the literature and 3 of their own, HAVARD AND SCOTT (5) have described the syndrome in detail. The following survey is based on 44 cases (3) and is in good agreement with that of HAVARD AND SCOTT.

The frequency of the syndrome is not known exactly but judging from the literature pure red cell anaemia seems to be found in about 5% of all patients with thymoma (6, 7) and thymoma in more than half the patients with pure red cell anaemia (8, 6). Pure red cell anaemia without thymoma, has been described only in about 30 cases. The tumour is benign but local invasion of the pleura may occur. The microscopical appearance is very inconsistent, but two elements are always recognized, namely epitheloid

*This work was supported by a grant from King Christian Xth Foundation.

cells ("spindle cells") and lymphocytes (thymocytes). No relationship has been found between the histology of the tumour and the symptomatology of the disease. The thymoma may appear up till 20 years before the anaemia, or it may be recognized during the course of the anaemia, or perhaps not until the autopsy. The anaemia may even develop several years after radical excision of the tumour.

Pure red cell anaemia is characterized by severe anaemia, absence of reticulocytes in the peripheral blood and no alterations in leucocytes and platelets. Bone marrow aspirations show selective aplasia or hypoplasia of erythropoiesis while myelo- and thrombopoiesis is normal. Some patients may develop pancytopenia. The bone marrow in 6 patients out of 44 was aplastic but the anaemia in these patients was initially more outstanding than thrombocytopenia and granulocytopenia. The anaemia may at the beginning appear as a typical autoimmune haemolytical anaemia with positive Coombs test (4 patients of 44) and then later appear as pure red cell anaemia with negative Coombs test. The survival of erythrocytes measured with ^{51}Cr -labelling is normal or perhaps slightly reduced. Some patients may develop agammaglobulinaemia (4 out of 44 patients) and some may have myasthenia gravis (3 out of 44).

The symptoms are due to the anaemia even large thymomas only rarely give symptoms. No enlargement of liver, spleen or lymph nodes is found. Terminally haemorrhagic diathesis and frequent infections may be seen.

Repeated blood transfusion is the only effective treatment. Only few patients improved after thymectomy (4 out of 18). Irradiation of the tumour is without effect. Splenectomy only has a transitional effect in the patients with autoimmune haemolytic anaemia. Treatment with ACTH, corticosteroids and testosterone has been used extensively but with doubtful effect.

The prognosis is bad but the patients may be kept in good condition for years by means of blood transfusions. Spontaneous or induced remission is seen in about one fourth of the patients. After the diagnosis of pure red cell anaemia has been made the patients' life expectation varies from a few months to 20 years, with an average of two to three years. The cause of death usually is infection (due to agranulocytosis, agammaglobulinaemia, treatment with steroids or blood transfusions), progressive anaemia or cardiac complications. Autopsy has not been able to explain the syndrome,

the only constant finding is haemoderosis caused by the great number of transfusions given.

Case History

A man, born 1893, was at the age of 50 admitted on account of diarrhoea and severe anaemia (haemoglobin 4.8 g/100 ml). Exploratory laparotomy performed on suspicion of intestinal tumour, only showed slightly enlarged mesenteric lymph nodes (Microscopical examination: Hyperplasia of the reticuloendothelial system). The nature of the anaemia was not disclosed and it disappeared spontaneously after some months. At the age of 56 a tumour in the anterior mediastinum was found by routine chest roentgenogram. A 10 x 10 cm tumour was removed. Microscopical examination (Dr CHARLES JONAKKEZ): A connective tissue membrane was found around the tumour. Inside the membrane was found a net of light, clear, slightly irregular cells with large light nuclei. Among the net were round cells, a little greater than normal lymphocytes, with rather large nucleus sometimes containing nucleolus. No atypical nuclei were found and only few mitoses. Only few HAMMILL's corpora could be identified. No breaking through of the connective tissue membrane was found. *Diagnosis:* Thymoma, probably malignant. Since the tumour was considered to be malignant 2850 was given locally post-operatively. The peripheral blood was found to be normal during the admission.

At the age of 58 the patient was admitted on account of diarrhoea and severe anaemia (haemoglobin 4.5 g/100 ml). Bone marrow aspiration showed complete absence of erythroblasts, but normal granulo- and thrombocytopoiesis. Thrombocytes and leucocytes in the peripheral blood were found to be normal, but reticulocytes were below 0.1%. A slightly positive Coombs test was found on several occasions but otherwise there were no signs of haemolytic anaemia. No abnormal antibodies were found in the serum. The patient was treated with about 50 blood transfusions (500 ml) in the next three years. Then the patient was treated with ACTH (15 x 20 units of Acton Prolooptum®) followed by complete remission. Four years later 63 years old, the patient again was admitted with diarrhoea and severe anaemia (haemoglobin 4.4 g/100 ml) and haematological findings identical with the ones found seven years earlier. Biopsy from the iliac crest did not show myelofibrosis and Coombs test was positive once, but otherwise negative. Half-life of Cr⁵¹-labelled erythrocytes was 22 days (normal values 25-30 days) and no accumulation of radioactivity was found in liver and spleen. The osmotic resistance of the erythrocytes was normal. Electrophoresis of serum was normal apart from slightly increased gamma globulin. Sedimentation rate was 73 mm/hours. Roentgenological examination of the gastrointestinal tract and chest was normal. No blood was found in faeces, but from 30-70 g lipids/24 hours (normal below 5 g/24 hours). Absorption tests for vitamin A, d-xylose and vitamin B₁₂ (SCHILLING's test) showed reduced values. Concentration of serum iron and serum B₁₂ was normal. Neurological examination showed that the patient did not have myelodysplasia gravis. Liver and kidney functions were normal, serum bilirubin was 0.6 mg/100 ml.

During the next two years the patient was treated with blood transfusions. Treatment with ACTH, steroids, vitamins, iron and vitamin B₁₂ was tried but without effect. Gluten free diet did not change the anaemia.

At the age of 67 spontaneous remission of the anaemia occurred, lasting until the patient died, 69 years old. The patient did not have thrombocytopenia, granulocytopenia, or agammaglobulinemia. Autopsy showed severe haemoderosis and bronchopneumonia on both sides. No thymic tissue could be found and the bone marrow was normal. The remaining internal organs were normal, including the spleen, lymph nodes and gastrointestinal tract.

Discussion

The association of two so rare disorders as thymic tumours and pure red cell anaemia indicates an aetiological relationship. Also other disorders are associated with thymomas as for instance myasthenia gravis agammaglobulinaemia and Cushing's syndrome. The combination of myasthenia gravis and thymoma is relatively frequent and in recent years suggestive evidence has been presented that myasthenia gravis is an autoimmune disease (9 10 11). The association of thymoma and other disorders presumably of autoimmune aetiology has also been reported (12 13) and based on clinical and experimental studies BURKET AND MACKEY (14) have suggested that structural changes of the thymus are found generally in autoimmune disease. It is therefore tempting to presume that pure red cell anaemia, a disorder certainly associated with structural changes of the thymus, is an autoimmune disease.

Provided that autoimmune mechanism is responsible for the development of pure red cell anaemia, then the autoantibody can not be directed against the erythrocytes, because haemolytic anaemia rarely is found in these patients. The autoantibodies therefore have to be directed against either the erythroblasts, the nuclei of the erythroblast or some factor governing the production of erythrocytes, for instance erythropoietin. It is well known that immunologic or allergic mechanisms are able to produce a selective erythroblastic aplasia in the bone marrow for example in typical autoimmune haemolytic anaemias (15-21) following iso-immunisation by blood group A (22) or rhesus-isoimmunisation (23) and in the course of diseases associated with autoimmune phenomena, for instance leukaemia (24) or lymphosarcoma (6). SCHOOLIFY AND GARCIA (25) have been able to reduce the erythropoiesis in mice by means of an antibody against erythropoietin suggesting that an autoantibody against erythropoietin might be able to produce pure red cell anaemia in man. The considerations presented here are mostly hypothetical. On the other hand suggestive evidence has been presented that pure red cell anaemia actually is an autoimmune condition, perhaps directed against erythropoietin. This taken together with the fact that previous studies have not been able to reveal the true nature of this disease may give the present explanations value. Thus it has not been possible to demonstrate a humoral

factor in the development of pure red cell anaemia (6 26 27) and it is unlikely that the tumour should be directly responsible for the anaemia because extirpation of the thymoma will rarely cure the disease. Pure red cell anaemia may even develop several years after the extirpation of the tumour. But neither is antibody production in the tumour able to explain the development of an autoimmune disease for the same reasons. However according to the hypothesis of BURNET (28) on the function of thymus these inconsistencies may be explained. BURNET considers the thymus to have two functions. The first is concerned with the differentiation of lymphocytic cell lines for specific immunologic functions and the second is concerned with immunologic homeostatic control. The development of autoimmune disease may in that case be due either to reduction of the normal thymic immunologic control or to development of cell clones resistant to the normal thymic control. If both mechanisms are responsible for the development of autoimmune disease, then it is understandable why thymectomy sometimes will and sometimes will not cure pure red cell anaemia. If, for example, the autoimmune disorder is due to development of "forbidden clones" in some part of the thymus then thymectomy should be able to cure the autoimmune disease. But if the autoimmune disease is caused by a reduction of the normal homeostatic control in consequence of damage to the thymus then, of course, thymectomy should not improve the autoimmune disorder.

Summary

This is report of case history of patient with pure red cell anaemia and thymoma and also survey of the clinical picture and the course of the disease based on 43 cases from the literature. In the light of newly acquired knowledge on the function of the thymus the pathogenesis of the syndrome is explained as an autoimmune disorder the autoantibody of which is directed against erythroblasts or against some factor governing erythropoiesis, for example erythropoietin.

Résumé

L'auteur rapporte l'observation d'un patient atteint d'une anémie aplastique avec thymome et rappelle le tableau clinique et l'évolution de la maladie d'après 43 cas déjà publiés. A la lumière des récentes notions sur la fonction du thymus, il semble que la pathogénèse de l'affection relève d'un processus d'autoimmunisation où l'anticorps est dirigé contre les érythroblastes ou contre un facteur gouvernant l'érythropoïèse, par exemple l'érythropoïétine.

Zusammenfassung

Es wird über einen Fall von Anämie bei Thymoma berichtet. Auf Grund von 33 in der Literatur beschriebenen Fällen wird ein Überblick über das klinische Bild und den Verlauf der Krankheit gegeben. Im Lichte neuerer Erkenntnisse über die Thymusfunktion wird die Pathogenese des Syndroms auf eine Autoimmunkrankheit zurückgeführt, wobei der Antikörper gegen die Erythroblasten oder gegen einen erythropoetischen Faktor wie z.B. das Erythropoetin, gerichtet ist.

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Increased Urea Solubility of the Blood Clot in Chronic Granulocytic Leukemia and its Relation to the Abnormal Thrombelastogram

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WINKELMAN, HÖRDER AND PILEGGI have described an abnormal thrombelastographic pattern in patients with chronic granulocytic leukemia (CGL) (1-2). The clot appears to become detached from the wall of the instrument's cuvette, resulting in a pattern resembling fibrinolysis, which they called the "step phenomenon" (SF). WINKELMAN et al. attribute the phenomenon to a proteolytic action of the leukocytes at the edges of the clot. MARCHAL and co-workers thought of platelet abnormalities (3-4).

The abnormal thrombelastogram (TEG) appears to be the first consistent abnormality pertaining to hemostasis which has been found in CGL. Although these patients frequently have a bleeding tendency, clotting tests have not revealed any well defined abnormality. The abnormal TEG suggests that perhaps the clot is structurally defective. If, for example, it failed to adhere to wound edges or was easily dislodged by mechanical or retractile forces, impaired hemostasis might result.

The present report presents data which show that the blood clot in patients with chronic granulocytic leukemia is abnormally soluble in 5 M urea.

Methods

Thrombelastogram of blood and plasma was obtained by the method of HARTZ (5). The solubility of blood clots in 5 M urea was determined as follows. 0.5 ml of clotted whole blood or plasma was incubated in glass tubes for 4 hours at 37°C. The serum was drained off and 5 ml of 30% (W/V) urea added. The tubes were stoppered, vertically rotated at 4 RPM and observed for lysis. As controls, blood clots were rotated with distilled water or phosphate buffer pH = 7.2.

Tensile strength was determined on whole blood clots which had been formed in lucite mold, as shown in fig. 1a. The dumbbell-shaped mold was formed by fitting so-

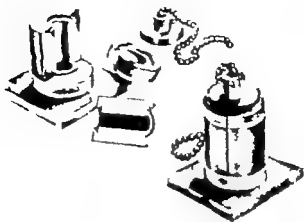


Fig. 1 Apparatus for measuring tensile strength of blood clots: a) detailed drawing of lucite mold in which blood clots are formed; the hollow inner cylinder is 1.5 cm long and 0.33 sq. cm in cross sectional area; b) assembled machine, showing lucite mold attached to Jolly balance.



b)

gether four pieces of lucite: 1) identical sides and two identical ends. Its inner surface was coated with paraffin prior to use. Whole blood was poured directly into the mold and allowed to clot in 37°C incubator for 1 hour. The mold was then affixed to the base of specially constructed Jolly balance (Fig. 1b) and the sides removed, leaving the clot suspended between the base and the top. The spring of the balance was stretched by motor driven shaft at the rate of 3.3 mm per sec and the tensile strength of the clot

was determined from the net excursion of the spring at the point where the clot broke. In almost all instances, break occurred at either end, rarely in the middle. Tensile strength of normal clots in this apparatus was 2.8-6.1 gm. These values are similar to the values of 4.48 (2.0-7.3) reported by MACFARLANE AND TOMLINSON (6) for whole blood using clots of similar cross sectional diameter.

The velocity of clot retraction in glass tubes was determined in 15 ml graduated conical centrifuge tubes. Five ml of blood was added and the tube stoppered with rubber stopper through which metal hook was inserted. The tube was inverted and the blood allowed to clot around the hook. After clotting, the tube was again inverted to the upright position and placed in 37°C incubator. At various intervals, the amount of serum expressed was read directly from the scale on the tube.

Results

Thrombelastogram The step phenomenon (SF) was observed in 11 out of 10 patients with chronic granulocytic leukemia during some phase of their illness (fig 2a, b). The phenomenon usually disappeared as the patient's white count approached normal, but was occasionally still seen with a count of 35,000. The only untreated patient whose blood did not demonstrate this phenomenon had a leukocyte count of 65,000 and a differential count which

Table I
Solubility of blood clots in 5 M urea.

	Time (hours)					WBC	Retracting 1 st or 2 nd time	Step ph- enomenon (SF) on TEG
	0	18	36	48	72			
Normal Subjects								
No. 1	3+	2+	2+	1+	1+			
2	3+	3+	3+	2+	1+			
3	3+	3+	3+	2+	1+			
4	3+	3+	2+	2+	1+			
	3+	3+	2+	2+	1+			
6	3+	3+	2+	1+	0			
Patients with chronic granulocytic leukemia								
No. 1	3+	+	0	0	0	40,000	Yes	Yes
2	3+	0	0	0	0	35,000	Yes	Yes
3	3+	2+	±	±	0	40,000	Yes	No
4	3+	3+	3+	+	±	68,000	Yes	No
	3+	3+	2+	0	0	82,000	Yes	Yes
6	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	15,000	Yes	No
7	3+	1+	0	0	0	350,000	No	Yes
8	3+	2+	1+	0	0	73,000	No	Yes
9	3+	0	0	0	0	120,000	No	Yes
10	3+	0	0	0	0	80,000	Yes	Yes

The size of each blood clot is graded from 0 (complete dissolution) to 3+

showed mainly mature neutrophils or band forms. When the leukocytes of whole blood were removed by centrifugation, the SF was no longer observed in the supernatant plasma, as described by WEICKELMAN AND HÖRDER (2). When washed leukemic leukocytes were added to normal blood a slight SF resulted, but only at very high concentration (280 000 per mm^3). The addition of washed platelets (140 000 per mm^3) had no effect.

Urea Solubility The whole blood clots of the patients dissolved more rapidly in 5 M urea than did normal clots (table 1). The latter were not usually completely dissolved even after 72 hours of incubation. By contrast, in 5 out of 10 patients with CGL, the clots were completely dissolved after 24 hours and in 2 others they were dissolved after 48 hours. Abnormal clot lysis was also observed in 9.3 M urea, but not in concentrations below this. When the urea was removed by prolonged dialysis against saline the clot did not reappear. This is in contrast to the situation when fibrin stabilizing factor or calcium is missing as described by LORAND (7). In three

Table II
Tensile strength of blood clots.
Patients with Chronic Granulocytic Leukemia

No.	Tensile strength in grams (normal 2.8-6.3)
No. 2	6.7
7	8.5
8	6.2
9	7.6
10	6.6

patients, all under therapy, a clot was still present after 48 hours and in two of these at 72 hours. There was excellent correlation between the urea solubility of the clot and the TEC. In the three patients whose clots had not dissolved after 48 hours, the SF was not present. The abnormal urea solubility like the SF required the presence of leukocytes or platelets or both. Thus, if blood from a patient with CGL was centrifuged at 1 000 RPM for 4 minutes and the supernatant, cell rich plasma was allowed to clot, it dissolved readily in 5 M urea, similar to the clotted whole blood. If the blood was centrifuged further at 3 000 RPM for 10 minutes, removing all white cells and most platelets, the clot from the supernatant plasma was then insoluble in 5 M urea.

Effect of Reduced Glutathione The addition of reduced glutathione to whole blood, final concentration 0.01 M, eliminated the SF in

reappear when the urea is removed by dialysis. By contrast, leukemic clots do not, suggesting that true proteolysis has occurred. Such potentiation by urea and urea derivatives has been noted for other proteolytic systems (11-12). In addition the leukemic clots, unlike those deficient in FSF, have a normal tensile strength. Thus, it is not clear whether the increased urea solubility of leukemic clots reflects a structural weakness. Whatever the cause of the increased solubility, this abnormality appears to correlate with the presence of the step-phenomenon on the TEG. Both phenomena require the presence of platelets or leukocytes or both. Differential centrifugation studies suggest that the leukocytes are probably the main factor, although attempts to reproduce the SF with isolated washed cells yielded inconclusive results.

Reduced glutathione, in concentration 0.01 M, consistently corrected the patients' abnormal TEG; similarly, it also retarded the abnormally rapid retraction from glass surfaces. The concentration of glutathione required to inhibit the SF is similar to that which is effective against certain fibrinolytic systems (13). If, as WINKELMAN et al. believe, the abnormality is due to a leukocyte protease, glutathione may act by inhibiting it. Unlike its effect on the TEG, glutathione was completely ineffective in correcting the abnormal urea solubility. This suggests that the increased urea solubility is not due to inhibition of FSF, since glutathione can completely substitute for this factor (10).

Finally, are the abnormal TEG and the urea solubility of the clot related in any way to the abnormal hemostasis in CGL? Dr NICOLA has likened the clot-stressing forces in the TEG cuvette to those acting at the edges of a wound (14). Do the clots in patients with CGL exhibit the step-phenomenon *in vivo*? That is, do they fail to adhere adequately to the edges of a wound and become easily detached, as in the TEG cuvette? Experiments on the adhesion of blood clots to nonviable tissue did not suggest that the clots from these patients were any less adhesive than those of normal subjects.

Summary

The whole blood clots of patients with chronic granulocytic leukaemias are more soluble in 5 M urea than are normal blood clots. This finding correlates with the abnormal thrombelastogram (step-phenomenon) which is seen in this disorder. Like the step-phenomenon, the abnormal urea solubility requires the presence of white cells or platelets or both. The abnormal TEG, but not the increased urea solubility, can be corrected by reduced glutathione, 0.01 M. The increased urea solubility is probably due to potentiation of proteolysis rather than an inhibition of fibrin stabilizing factor.

Résumé

Le caillot de sang total des patients atteints de leucémie myéloïde chronique est plus soluble dans l'urée 5 M que les caillots de sujets témoins. Ce fait concorde avec l'anomalie thromboélastographique («step») que l'on décrit dans cette affection. À l'instar de ce phénomène du «step», la solubilité anormale à l'urée requiert la présence des leucocytes ou des plaquettes, voire des deux. Le glutathion réduit 0,01 M peut corriger le TEG mais non la solubilité excessive à l'urée. Cette dernière est due probablement plus à une potentialisation de la protéolyse qu'à une inhibition du facteur stabilisateur de la fibrine.

Zusammenfassung

Blutgerinnsel von Patienten mit chronischer myeloischer Leukämie sind in 5 M Harnstoff leichter löslich als normale Blutgerinnsel. Dieser Befund steht in Beziehung zum abnormen Thromboelastogramm (Stufenphänomen) bei dieser Krankheit. Wie das Stufenphänomen hat die abnorme Harnstofflöslichkeit die Gegenwart von Leukozyten oder Thrombozyten oder von beiden zur Voraussetzung. Das abnorme TEG, jedoch nicht die gesteigerte Harnstofflöslichkeit, lassen sich durch 0,01 M reduziertes Glutathion korrigieren. Die Steigerung der Harnstofflöslichkeit ist wahrscheinlich eher durch eine Verstärkung der Proteolyse, als durch eine Hemmung des fibrinstabilisierenden Faktors bedingt.

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Aus der II Medizinischen Universitätsklinik in Wien
(Vorstand Prof. Dr. K. FELLINGER)

Esterase und Lipase Aktivität in den weißen Blutzellen

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In den letzten Jahren hat der cytochemische Nachweis von unspezifischen Esterasen in den Leukocyten zunehmendes Interesse gefunden. Als Substrate wurden vor allem Alpha Naphthylacetat, Naphthol AS-Acetat und Naphthol AS-D-Acetat verwendet (9). Übereinstimmend konnte eine schwache Esteraseaktivität in den reifen Granulozyten, eine stärkere in den Myelo- und Promyelozyten und eine sehr starke Aktivität in den Monozyten und Histiozyten nachgewiesen werden. Lymphozyten zeigten dagegen keine oder nur eine sehr schwache Aktivität. Der Ausfall der Reaktion ist weitgehend unspezifisch, ob damit Lipasen erfaßt werden, ist ungewiß.

Biochemische Untersuchungen sind bisher erst spärlich durchgeführt worden. HARDY et al. (6) haben eine deutliche Esteraseaktivität mit Beta Naphtholacetat als Substrat sowohl in Granulozyten als auch in Lymphozyten kolorimetrisch nachgewiesen. Die Spaltung von Beta Naphthol Laureat in Granulozyten und Lymphozyten wurde als Hinweis für das Vorhandensein einer Lipase in den genannten Zellen interpretiert. Zu ähnlichen Ergebnissen kamen FREI et al. (5). Die Spezifität dieses Substrates muß jedoch angezweifelt werden. Als Substrat zur Messung einer Lipaseaktivität müssen Emulsionen von Triglyceriden langkettiger (1) Fettsäuren verwendet werden. Eine weitere Bedingung für eine exakte Lipasebestimmung ist die Wasserunlöslichkeit des verwendeten Substrates (11).

Zum Lipasenachweis in Leukozyten liegen nur Arbeiten von BERGEL (2) sowie NRES (10) vor, in denen die Andauung von Bienenwachs und Schweinefett durch Eiter untersucht wurde. Den

ersten bisher verwertbaren Lipasenachweis in Leukozyten lieferten IZAK UND DE VRIES (7)

Das Ziel unserer Untersuchungen bestand einerseits im Nachweis einer etwaigen Lipase in den weißen Blutzellen, andererseits sollte die hydrolytische Spaltung von Triglyceriden kurzkettiger Fettsäuren (Tributyrin, Tricaprin und Tricaprylin) biochemisch gemessen und mit dem Ausfall cytochemischer Untersuchungen unter Verwendung von Naphthol AS-D-Acetat als Substrat in Vergleich gebracht werden.

Methoden

Die untersuchten weißen Blutzellen stammen von Patienten, die sich in stationärer Behandlung der Klinik befanden.

Aufbereitung aus peripherem Blut. 30 ml durch Venenpunktion frisch gewonnenes Vollblut werden in einem alkalisierten Zentrifugenglas mit 15 ml einer 3%igen Destranlösung (Destran 250, $\eta = 0,42$, $M_w = 267\ 000$, $M_n = 139\ 000$, Fa. Knoll AG, Ludwigshafen/Rhein, in 0,9%iger NaCl-Lösung) 10 000 E Streptokinase, 2500 E Streptodornase (Vandae, Fa. Lederle, American Cyanamide Comp.) und 250 I.U. Lysozym Roche vorsichtig gemischt und 30 Minuten bei Zimmertemperatur stehen gelassen. Während dieser Zeit setzen sich die Erythrozyten am Boden ab. Der Überstand wird vorsichtig abgegossen und 5 Minuten bei $140 \times g$ zentrifugiert. Der Überstand wird verworfen, und die verbliebenen Zellen werden durch vorsichtiges Schütteln in 40 ml 0,9%iger NaCl-Lösung aufgeschwemmt und neuerlich auf die angegebene Art zentrifugiert. Dieser Waschvorgang wird zweimal durchgeführt. Zur Entfernung der in der Zellsuspension noch verbliebenen Erythrozyten werden die Zellen mit 3 Teilen destillierten Wasser genau 30 Sekunden geschüttelt und dann mit 1 Teil 0,6 M KCl-Lösung versetzt. Diese Suspension wird neuerlich bei $140 \times g$ 5 Minuten zentrifugiert und der nun reichlich gefärbte Überstand abgegossen. Die Zellen werden dann entsprechend der gewaschenen Zellzahl mit Verdünnungsflüssigkeit versetzt und in der Zählkammer nach Bürger-Türk zweimal gezählt.

Gewinnung aus Lymphknoten des Lymphknoten auf Milz. Das frisch entnommene Organmaterial wird in Hankscher Lösung mit Pinzette und Schere in möglichst kleine Stüchchen zerkleinert, bis es annähernd breiartige Konsistenz hat. Zur Abtrennung größerer Organbestandteile wird der Brei durch feinsamige Gaze gepresst. Die Zellen werden in Hankscher Lösung aufgeschwemmt, wie oben angegeben zweimal gewaschen und in der Zählkammer nach Bürger-Türk doppelt gezählt.

Bestimmung der Esterase-Aktivität. Als Substrate werden Tributyrin (Glycerin-tri-*n*-Butyrat der Fa. Fluka AG, Buchs SG), Tricaprin und Tricaprylin (California Corporation for Biochemical Research, Los Angeles 63, Cal.) verwendet.

Ansatz. In den Haupttrögern der Warburggefäße werden 0,1 ml Substrat und 1,9 ml der zu untersuchenden Zellen in einer Gesamtzahl von etwa 1×10^6 pro Ansatz, aufgeschwemmt in 0,9%iger NaCl-Lösung, die als Pufferstatus NaHCO_3 in einer Konzentration von 0,024 M enthält, eingesetzt. Das Gesamtvolumen beträgt demnach 2,0 ml, pH 7,4. Für jede Probe werden je zwei Leerwerte mitbestimmt: 0,1 ml Substrat + 1,9 ml NaHCO_3 -Puffer in 0,9%iger NaCl-Lösung, bzw. 1,9 ml der Zellsuspension, die mit Puffer auf 2,0 ml ergänzt wird. Gasphase: 95% N_2 , 5% CO_2 . Die Gefäße werden in der Warburg-Apparatur bei 37°C geschüttelt, die manometrische Ablese erfolgt alle 5 Minuten. Die Reaktion verläuft nach Einstellung des Temperaturgleichgewichtes unter den gegebenen Bedingungen über mindestens 1 Stunde linear. Die Akti-

vierten werden unter Berücksichtigung der Leerwerte berechnet und in Internationalen Einheiten (I. U. = Mikromol freigesetzte Fettsäuren/ 10^6 Zellen/Minute) angegeben.

Bestimmung der Lipase-Aktivität: Als Substrat dient eine Emulsion von Kokosfett («Ceres» der Fa. Kumerol GmbH) in Nüchternplasma, die mittels Ultra-Turrax (Fa. Janke und Kunkel K.G., Staufen i. Br.) hergestellt wird.

Ansatz: 0,4 ml der 30%igen Emulsion, 0,1 ml 0,4 M Tris, 0,1 ml 5% Glukoselösung, 1,4 ml einer Suspension der zu untersuchenden Zellen in 0,9% NaCl-Lösung. Der Gesamtzahl der Zellen beträgt pro Ansatz $1-3 \times 10^6$ pH 8,2. Leerwert Ansätze der Zellsuspension werden 1,4 ml 0,9% NaCl-Lösung zugesetzt. Jeder Ansatz wird in dreifacher Menge hergestellt; davon werden in 2 ml die freien Fettsäuren nach der von Doll und Mikosata (4) angegebenen Mikrotitrationsmethode sofort bestimmt, 2,0 ml demselben Ansatzes werden im Wasserbad bei 37°C unter Luft eine Stunde geschüttelt und anschließend die freien Fettsäuren auf dieselbe Weise bestimmt. In vorstehenden Untersuchungen wurde festgestellt, daß die Reaktion innerhalb dieser Zeit unter diesen Versuchsbedingungen linear verläuft.

Die lipolytische Aktivität wird aus der Differenz der freien Fettsäuren vor und nach der Inkubation unter Berücksichtigung des Leerwertes berechnet. Die Aktivitäten werden in Internationalen Einheiten (I. U. = μ Mol freigesetzte freie Fettsäuren/ 10^6 Zellen/Minute) angegeben.

Histocyten-esteraseaktivität: Die luftgetrockneten Anstriche werden 5 Minuten in Formoldampf fixiert, gespült und getrocknet. Die Präparate werden darauf 60 Minuten bei Zimmertemperatur in der folgenden Lösung inkubiert. 80 mg Echtnigrosin BB in 10 ml 0,1 M Phosphatpuffer (pH 6,8-7,0) gelöst und 0,4 ml Propylenglykol in 30 ml Puffer gelöst, dem tropfenweise 0,4 ml einer 1%igen Naphthol-AS-D-Acetat-Aceton-Lösung zugesetzt wird. Anschließend wird mit Leitungswasser gespült, 10 Minuten mit Mayer-Hämalaun gefärbt, wieder gespült, geblickt und in Gelatinol eingebettet.

Tabelle I

Patient	Diagnose	Tributyrin	Tricapron	Tricosarlin	Kapitel AS-D-Acetat
H.	Osteomyelitis	9450	2820	2180	(+)
Ch.	Myelische Reaktion	1830	1280	80	(+)
A.	Chronische Myelose	1310	830	153	(+)
B.	Chronische Myelose	3110	3320	-	+
N.	Chronische Myelose	6566	3160	443	+
Zo.	Akute Myelose	2580	1220	-	++
W.	Akute Myelose	1830	753	-	++
No.	Lymphadenose	1570	260	40	neg.
Z.	Lymphadenose	1490	468	-	neg.
H.	Lymphknotenstillen	1250	-	-	neg.
N	Lymphknotenstillen (Pleura)	6600	4900	1900	neg.
F	Carcinomzellen (Pleuraerguß)	31500	-	-	+++
K.	Gaucherzellen	48700	-	-	+++
	Makrophagen (Maus)	14500	-	-	+++

Ergebnisse und Diskussion

In Tabelle I sind die gemessenen Enzymaktivitäten in verschiedenen weißen Blutzellen sowie Exsudatzellen und Gaucher Zellen aus der Milz bei Verwendung von Tributyrin, Tricapron

und Tricaprylin als Substrat angegeben. Alle untersuchten Zellen zeigten eine deutliche Esteraseaktivität. Die höchste Spaltungsgeschwindigkeit wiesen Gaucher Zellen aus der Milz, Zellen eines Uteruskarzinoms aus einem Pleuraxsudat und Mäusenakrophagen auf.

Die bisherigen Untersuchungen reichen nicht aus, um eventuelle quantitative Unterschiede zwischen normalen Granulozyten und Lymphozyten bzw. zwischen leukämischen Zellen nachzuweisen. Bei Verwendung von Triglyceriden längerkettiger Fettsäuren (Tricapron und Tricaprylin) als Substrat zeigte sich allgemein eine Abnahme der Spaltungsgeschwindigkeit mit Zunahme der Kettenlängen der Fettsäuren.

Parallel zu den biochemischen Untersuchungen wurde der zytochemische Esterasenachweis an den gleichen Zellen unter Verwendung von Naphthol AS-D-Acetat als Substrat durchgeführt. Die Methode gestattet höchstens eine semiquantitative Beurteilung der Esteraseaktivität. Bei Vergleich der Ergebnisse fällt auf, daß sich in den Lymphozyten, im Gegensatz zu zytochemischen Methoden, biochemisch eine sichere, wenn auch nicht hochgradige Esteraseaktivität nachweisen läßt. Ansonsten ergibt sich eine recht gute Übereinstimmung zwischen Intensität der Esterasefärbung an fixierten Zellen im Ausstrich und der biochemisch gemessenen Esteraseaktivität von intakten funktionstüchtigen Zellen gegenüber Tributyrin.

In orientierenden Untersuchungen haben wir die Tributyrinaseaktivität von osmotisch zytolisierten oder mechanisch zerstörten Zellen untersucht. Es ergab sich in allen Fällen im Vergleich zu intakten Zellen ein Aktivitätsabfall von 10–50 %. Untersuchungen über die Aktivität einzelner Zellfraktionen sind im Gange.

Wie aus Tabelle II hervorgeht, wird Kokosfett sowohl von Granulozyten als auch von Lymphozyten hydrolytisch gespalten.

Tabelle II

Patient	Diagnose	Lipaseaktivität
Gb.	Myeloische Reaktion	160
A.	Chronische Myelose	92
N.	Chronische Myelose	57
W.	Akute Leukose	109
N.	Lymphadenose	55
H.	Lymphadenose	48
Makrophagen (Meeschweinechen)		910
		1040

Nach Inkubation dieser Zellen mit Glukose ohne Fettsatz ist mit dieser Methode keine Zunahme der freien Fettsäuren festzustellen. Auf Grund der vorliegenden Untersuchungen ist demnach der sichere Nachweis geliefert, daß die weißen Blutkörperchen eine echte Lipaseaktivität besitzen. Dieser Befund erscheint uns von wesentlicher Bedeutung, da in letzter Zeit die Aufmerksamkeit in zunehmendem Maße auf die Rolle der Leukozyten im Fettstoffwechsel gelenkt wurde. So konnte Jochims (8) die Fettaufnahme von Leukozyten nach Mahlzeiten zytochemisch wahrscheinlich machen, und IZAK UND DE VRIES (7) wiesen neben phasenoptischen Beobachtungen über die Fettaufnahme durch Leukozyten in biochemischen Untersuchungen nach, daß der Gehalt an gebundenen sowie insbesondere an freien Fettsäuren nach fettreichen Mahlzeiten in den Leukozyten stark zunimmt. Die Fähigkeit der Leukozyten zur Fettsäuresynthese aus Acetat 1 C^{14} ist erwiesen (9). Weiterhin könnten Lipasen beim Abbau von phagozytiertem Material eine wesentliche Rolle spielen (7).

Auch in bezug auf die Lipaseaktivität ergab sich bisher kein signifikanter Unterschied zwischen Granulozyten und Lymphozyten. Hingegen weisen Makrophagen eine höhere Aktivität auf. Da diesem Befund eine wesentliche funktionelle Bedeutung zukommt, wird er in einer folgenden Arbeit, nebst biochemischer Charakterisierung der Fermentaktivität, ausführlich besprochen.

Zusammenfassung

Die Spaltung von Triglyceriden mit kurzkettigen Fettsäuren (Tributyrin, Tricapron und Tricaprylin) sowie von Kokosfett durch weiße Blutkörperchen und Gaucherzellen wurde untersucht. Parallel dazu wurde zytochemisch der Esterase nachweis mit Naphthol-AS-D-Acetat als Substrat geführt. Im Gegensatz zu den zytochemischen Befunden weisen Lymphozyten eine deutliche Esteraseaktivität auf. Außerdem findet sich eine gute Übereinstimmung zwischen biochemischen und zytochemischen Befunden. Mit Zunahme der Kettenlänge der Fettsäuren der verwendeten Substrate nimmt die Spaltungsgeschwindigkeit ab. In normalen und pathologischen Granulozyten und Lymphozyten wird unter Verwendung von Kokosfett als Substrat eine deutliche Lipaseaktivität nachgewiesen. Zwischen diesen beiden Zellarten lassen sich bisher keine quantitativen Unterschiede nachweisen. Makrophagen weisen eine bedeutend höhere Aktivität auf. Die physiologische Bedeutung dieser Befunde wird kurz diskutiert.

Summary

The authors studied the cleavage of triglycerides with short-chained fatty acids (tributyrine, tricapronic and tricapryline) and of coconut oil by leukocytes, cruder cells and Gaucher's cells. Parallel cytochemical esterase determinations with Naphthol-AS-D acetate as substrate were performed. In contrast to the cytochemical findings,

lymphocytes show an evident esterase activity. Otherwise the agreement between the biochemical and cytochemical results is good. As the chain of the fatty acids in the substrate lengthens, the cleavage rate decreases. In normal and pathological granulocytes and lymphocytes, using coconut oil as substrate, marked lipase activity is found. Quantitative differences between these two cell forms have not been demonstrated so far. The physiological significance of these findings is discussed.

Résumé

Etude de la scission de triglycérides formés d'acides gras à chaînes courtes (tributyrique, tricaproïque et tricaprilyne) et de graisse de coco par les leucocytes, les cellules d'extrudans et les cellules de Gaucher. Détermination parallèle de l'estérase par méthode histochimique avec comme substrat l'acétate de AS-D-naphthol. Les lymphocytes montrent une nette activité estérasique qui n'est cependant pas confirmée par l'histochimie. A part cette exception, il existe une bonne corrélation entre les déterminations biochimiques et histochimiques. La vitesse de scission diminue avec la longueur des chaînes des acides gras employés comme substrats. L'activité lipasique des granulocytes et des lymphocytes normaux et pathologiques est nette lors de l'emploi de la graisse de coco comme substrat. Aucune différence d'ordre quantitatif n'a pu être démontrée entre ces deux types cellulaires. Les cobayes montrent une plus grande activité. La signification physiopathologique de ces particularités est discutée.

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Studies of Patients with Familial Vitamin B₁₂ Malabsorption

The Lack of Effect of Normal Intestinal Juice on the Absorption of Vitamin B₁₂

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Recently we have described 10 cases of a familial and apparently congenital malabsorption of vitamin B₁₂ (4-5) in which none of hitherto known causes of vitamin B₁₂ malabsorption could be demonstrated. It was evident that the defect in these patients was located at the level of the small intestine, and was due to an interference with the transport of vitamin B₁₂ across the intestinal wall. In the previous papers we have suggested that congenital lack of a specific intestinal factor might be responsible for the malabsorption of vitamin B₁₂.

COOPER AND CASTLE (2) have demonstrated a factor present in extracts of intestinal wall from rats which in vitro splits the binding of vitamin B₁₂ to intrinsic factor. HERBERT (3) by the same technique has demonstrated a similar factor in extracts from human intestinal wall.

The purpose of the present work has been to test the effect of normal intestinal juice on the absorption of vitamin B₁₂ in some of our previously described patients in an attempt to evaluate if a factor such as that described by COOPER AND CASTLE is present in intestinal juice, and furthermore to investigate if the juice may cause increased vitamin B₁₂ in our patients.

While this work was in progress, COLLE et al. (1) have described a case which both clinically and with regard to pathogenesis seems to belong to the same category as our patients. They demonstrated increased absorption of radioactive vitamin B₁₂ when the test dose was given together with normal intestinal juice.

Material

The material consists of 6 patients, 3 males and 3 females, aged 7-19 years. Receiving monthly injections of 50-100 µg. vitamin B₁₂ they were in good condition and in haematological remission. Their complete case histories and the laboratory findings are described in the earlier papers (4, 5). In the present paper they have the same designation as before with roman numbers. The patients are Nos. II, VI, VII, VIII, IX and X. Patients Nos. VII and VIII are siblings, the others are from different families and not related to each other.

Methods

The absorption of radioactive vitamin B₁₂ has been measured by the method of SCHILLING (7) as described in our previous communication (3).

Intestinal juice was collected from patients with surgical fistulas (jejunostomy or ileostomy because of colectomy). The juice was diluted with half the volume of 0.9% solution of NaCl and filtered. It was stored deep frozen at -20 °C until just before use.

In one experiment (patient No. IX) we also tested extract from the small intestine of hog. The mucosa layer of the small intestine was homogenized in a Waring blender with about 300 ml of 0.9% solution of NaCl and filtered.

As the intestinal factor possibly lacking in our patients most likely is an enzyme, it was anticipated that the procoagulum might be destroyed by the pepsin containing gastric juice. To avoid this possibility the juice was administered through long Ryle tube. The position of the tube was controlled by fluoroscopy or X-ray. In 5 of the 7 experiments the tip of the tube was placed at the duodenojejunal flexure or below, and in the 2 others in the stomach. The administration of the juice was started 30 minutes after the test dose of radiolabelled vitamin B₁₂ had been given, 60-70 ml were administered slowly in the course of 30 minutes.

Table I

Results of the SCHILLING Test.
Effect of normal intestinal juice and hog intestinal extract.

Pat. No.	Age, years	Position of tip of the tube	SCHILLING test (% excretion of ⁵⁷ Co B ₁₂ in 2 hours urine) without juice	Administration of juice from	SCHILLING test (% excretion of ⁵⁷ Co B ₁₂ in 24 hours urine) after juice
II	7	Duodenojejunal flexure	1.3	Ileostomy	0.3
VI	14	Duodenojejunal flexure	0.2	Ileostomy	0.3
VII	19	25 cm below duodenojejunal flexure	0.1	Jejunostomy	0.4
VIII	14	25 cm below duodenojejunal flexure	0.2	Ileostomy	0.2
IX	13	Stomach	1.4	Hog intestinal extract	0.5
IX	12	Stomach	1.4	Ileostomy	0.5
X	11	Duodenojejunal flexure	0	Ileostomy	0.2

Results and Discussion

As shown in table I we were not able to demonstrate significant increase in the urinary excretion of ^{58}Co -labelled vitamin B_{12} when the testdose was given either with normal intestinal juice or extract of small intestine from hog. Thus, there was no evidence that normal intestinal juice or hog intestinal extract increased the absorption of vitamin B_{12} in our patients. However in spite of the negative results it might well be that our patients are lacking a factor such as that described by COOPER AND CASTLE (2) in extract from intestinal wall. It is reasonable to assume that the factor is located intracellularly and not secreted in the intestine.

The patient reported by COLLE et al. (1) was a 26 months old female. They also demonstrated the defect to be placed at the level of the small intestine. When the SCHILLING test was performed in the standard manner or together with intrinsic factor they found an urinary excretion of less than 1% except on one occasion, when 8.3% was excreted in 48 hours. Performing the test with both intrinsic factor and intestinal juice, they found an excretion of 4.3%, 11.7% and 0.2% on three different occasions. To evaluate the effect of normal intestinal juice on the absorption of vitamin B_{12} out of these experiments seems rather difficult, but it is evident that the juice was effective at least on one occasion. The fact, that the juice was ineffective in our experiments, may be due to a different biochemical defect in our patients.

In our opinion the complete investigation of vitamin B_{12} malabsorption of obscure etiology should include experiments with normal intestinal juice in an attempt to demonstrate if different pathogenic groups exist.

Addendum. After the completion of this paper MORTER et al. (6) have reported 2 cases of acquired vitamin B_{12} malabsorption in which none of the hitherto known cases of vitamin B_{12} malabsorption could be demonstrated. The patients were 62 years old woman and 67 years old man. They demonstrated significant increase in the absorption of vitamin B_{12} when the testdose was given together with succus entericus. These findings support the view that different pathogenetic groups must exist.

Summary

In 6 cases of familial the administration of normal intestinal juice or hog intestinal extract vitamin B_{12} malabsorption had no effect on the absorption of vitamin B_{12} measured by the method of SCHILLING.

Résumé

Chez 6 patients souffrant d'un trouble de la résorption intestinale de la vitamine B₁₂, l'administration de suc intestinal normal ou d'extrait d'intestin de porc n'influence pas cette résorption, précisée par le test de SCHILLING.

Zusammenfassung

Bei 6 Patienten mit einer familiären Störung der Vitamin B₁₂-Resorption ermochte die Zufuhr von normalem Darmsaft oder Extrakt aus Schweinedarm die Resorption von Vitamin B₁₂ gemessen mit dem SCHILLING Test, nicht zu beeinflussen.

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The Antigenic Components of Elinin

I. Isolation and Serological Identification

By NICOLETTA VULPE

The antigenic composition of red blood cell S protein has been the subject of repeated investigations. The results of these works have been reported in several communications (5, 6, 7). It is certain that S protein is not the only protein in the red cell wall; another water soluble fraction, denoted as *elinin*, was also derived from red cell membranes by Moskowitz et al. (3). Elinin differs from S protein in having less N and more P; it is a lipo-protein fraction, which is defined essentially by a method of preparation rather than by a set of exact physical and chemical properties. However, the fact that this material does possess certain characteristic properties has led Moskowitz to give it a specific name.

Immunological methods are proving increasingly useful for exploring the homogeneity or heterogeneity of proteins. In general these methods are more sensitive than physical methods for detecting heterogeneity. This report describes the application of immunochemical methods to the characterization of the elinin and its differentiation from S protein.

Methods

Preparation of elinin. The method for recovering elinin (EL) used in the present study is based on the technique outlined by Moskowitz et al. (3). An air-driven ultracentrifuge manufactured by Pirbright in Göttingen was used. The water solution of EL was obtained from ORh positive red cells of normal donors; it was prepared as 500 mg./100 ml. solution and used as the source of antigens for the preparation of the immunization material and immunochemical methods.

Production of rabbit antiserum. The antigen was mixed with an equal volume of Freund's Adjuvant (complete) until homogeneous suspension was obtained. One ml. of the elinin adjuvant emulsion was injected intramuscularly into each thigh of two

This work was carried out while the author was NATO grantee in Germany.
Commercial product purchased from Difco, Detroit.

rabbits once each week for 11 weeks (0.5 mg. protein/dose). Rabbits were bled periodically from the marginal ear vein and the sera collected for precipitation testing. When sufficiently high titers were obtained, the rabbits were bled from the heart by cardiac puncture and the serum was recovered and either frozen at -70°C or preserved at 4°C in the presence of 0.01% thiomersal. The antisera were classified as anti₁ and anti₂-EL.

The rabbit anti-human serum was obtained from Behringwerke AG, Marburg, Labn.

The antiserum against human stromata was prepared as described in the previous paper (3).

Determination of antiserum potency. Qualitative evaluation of the strength of the antisera was made with two different micro-ring precipitation tests, the antigen dilution method and the more classical serum dilution titr (2). The antigen was the same as employed to induce antibody formation in the rabbit.

In the antigen dilution method the antigen was serially diluted from 0.5 solution and used against undiluted antisera. Micro-tubes made from glass tubing, internal diameter 3 mm were used. Equal volumes (0.025 ml) of antigen and antisera were employed and the precipitation reaction developed at room temperature (25 $^{\circ}\text{C}$). Simultaneously the rabbit normal serum (before inoculation) was run as control. The formation of precipitin bands was checked at 1, 2, 4 and 24 hours. The end point was considered to be a barely detectable ring at the smallest amount of antigen (about 1 μg) to produce a clearly visible ring as the previously described test.

Absorption technique: Antisera were absorbed with normal human serum, crystalline human hemoglobin or elum. This was carried out by mixing the serum with an excess of absorbent antigen. The antiserum-antigen mixture was left at room temperature for 30 minutes. The resulting precipitate was removed by centrifugation and the clear supernatant was left in the refrigerator at 4°C for 4 days to permit complete neutralization of the corresponding antibodies. The absorbed antiserum was tested against the absorbent antigen by the precipitin test. The absorption was considered complete if no reaction took place.

Precipitin studies. The quantitative precipitin determinations were conducted by the method of HEMMELINGER AND KESDALL (1) as described by KABA AND MARRAS (7). The analyses were carried out by adding 0.25 ml of undiluted absorbed antiserum to each of a series of tubes containing increasing amounts of EL. The contents were immediately mixed and stored 1 h at 37°C and then 2 days at 4°C . The precipitates were centrifuged at 2°C and washed twice with cold saline. Nitrogen contents of the precipitates were determined by the macro-Kjeldahl method. The results are recorded on the basis of total N precipitated.

Ouchterlony analysis: The double diffusion-in-gel method of OUCHTERLONY was used in the micromodification of WASSERMAN (8).

Immunoelectrophoretic analysis: The microtechnique described by SCHMIDHOFER (4) was used. A standard microscope slide (16 \times 26 mm) was covered with 2 ml. warm buffered agar solution. 2% Difco Bacto-Agar purified as described in an earlier communication (6) was made up in barbital-hydrochloric acid buffer at pH 8.6. The immunodiffusion electrophoresis equipment was manufactured by Eganon Aktiengesellschaft, Bern, Switzerland. Electrophoresis was carried on with the aforementioned buffer at pH 8.6 for 30 minutes using 40 volts (across the slides) and 40 mA. The agar coated slides were washed with 0.9% saline and remained in distilled water bath overnight. The dried slides were then stained with amido schwarz 10 B for 15-20 minutes.

Results

Quantitative precipitin tests Table I and fig 1 show the data obtained when increasing amounts of antigen were added to a

series of tubes containing a constant volume of antiserum. Determinations were usually carried out in duplicate and the figures in the table represent averages. Portions of each supernatant were tested by addition of antigen and antiserum to determine whether excess of antibody or antigen was present. The first and second column in the table show the amount nitrogen added and the total (antigen + antibody) nitrogen precipitated (fig 1 curves 1 and 2)

Table I
Addition of increasing amounts of elin to homologous rabbit antiserum.

ELin added mg	Total N precip. mg	Test on supernatants	
		For antibody	For antigen
<i>serum anti-EL</i>			
0.002	0.002	++++	±
0.006	0.012	++++	±
0.012	0.020	+++	+
0.022	0.022	+++	+
0.060	0.036	+	+
0.120	0.043	±	+
0.150	0.042	—	++
0.200	0.030	—	+++
<i>serum anti₂-EL</i>			
0.002	0.004	++++	±
0.006	0.022	+++	±
0.012	0.032	+++	+
0.022	0.032	++	++
0.060	0.030	+	+++
0.120	0.109	+	+++
0.150	0.135	+	+++
0.200	0.120	+	++++

It can be seen that with increasing additions of EL, the total nitrogen precipitated rose to a maximum of 0.043 mg when 0.120 mg of EL nitrogen was added to 0.25 ml of anti₁ EL serum, as compared to 0.135 mg obtained with the anti₂ EL serum. The absence of an equivalence zone, observed in the tests on supernatants from the precipitates, showed that most likely EL was serologically heterogenous.

Precipitin tests in agar In double diffusion in-gel analyses EL formed one precipitate with the unimmunized anti₁ EL and two parallel precipitates with anti₂ EL serum (fig 2). One of these gave a reaction of identity with the precipitate obtained with anti₁ EL, the other one gave on the contrary a reaction of interference. The same figure shows that both normal rabbit serum and rabbit anti human serum did not form precipitin lines with EL. However

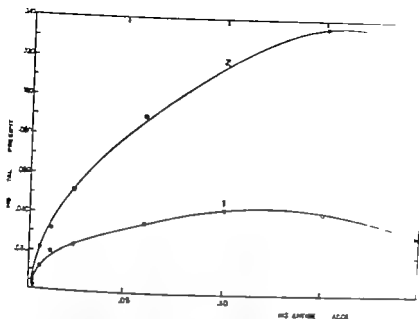


Fig. 1 Precipitation curves for EL and its homologous antibody. Curve 1 refers anti-EL immune serum, curve 2 to anti-EL immune serum.



Fig. 2 Micro-Ouchterlony agar-diffusion system. 10 μ g EL in central well. 1) anti-EL immune serum; 2) anti-EL immune serum; 3) normal rabbit serum; 4) rabbit anti-human serum. Wells 1-4 contain 22 μ l of serum. Diffusion allowed to proceed for 18-24 hours at room temperature.

when the serum anti-EL was compared with EL as well as with human normal serum (HNS) and human normal haemoglobin (HnHb) the same two parallel precipitates were obtained with HNS presumably due to the small amount of HNS in the EL preparations (fig. 3a). After absorption with HNS this band disappeared. Human haemoglobin did not show any precipitation reaction (fig. 3b). Absorption studies using EL completely neutralized the activity of the serum.

of antigen. The shape of the EL precipitin band suggested several components in EL. Comparative immunoelectrophoretic studies showed that anti₁ EL serum did not give any precipitate with HNHB whereas gave a precipitin band with HNS in the gamma-globulin zone (fig 5c). The absorbed immunoserum was then unable to form a precipitate.

Discussion

Elinin was an effective antigen in eliciting antibody formation in rabbits. Specific antisera and precipitin reactions in agar were used to assess its degree of purification. These studies showed that EL contains at least two distinct antigenic fractions which are present in quantities sufficient to stimulate antibody formation in rabbits immunized with the aid of Freund's adjuvant.

The serologic heterogeneity of EL is also confirmed by the results of the immunoelectrophoretic analysis. In fact, the long arc of only moderate curvature suggests that it was formed by an antigen which electrophoretically is heterogeneous and consists of a population of molecules with smoothly graduated differences in electrophoretic mobility. Thereafter the EL solution contained serologically detectable impurities derived from the ghosts from which it was prepared. Traces of serum were showed and the antibodies to these associated proteins were absorbed from the immunoserum by human serum. It would seem very likely that very small amounts of haemoglobin were present in the EL preparations, even though they were not detected.

The data in this report show also that EL is distinct from the other recognized protein of red cell membrane that is S protein. Comparative studies of these two proteins showed that using a rabbit anti-stromata serum EL gave a reaction of interference with the precipitates formed by S protein.

Acknowledgments. The author wishes to express her sincere appreciation for the hospitality of Prof. L. HELLMAYER and Prof. H. SCHMOTKE, whose constant advice and encouragement have been a great stimulation to this work. The author is also grateful to Prof. H. SCHMOTKE for his help in solving the problems of instrumentation and to Dr. T. LUTHEARDT of the Department of Pediatrics for the use of the ultracentrifuge. Many thanks are due to Miss SCHMIDT for her excellent technical assistance in operating the ultracentrifuge.

Summary

Immunochemical methods were used in order to investigate the antigenic structure of elinin obtained from human normal red cell membranes. By means of rabbits raised against elinin two major immunologically identifiable fractions are found. In

comparative immunoelectrophoretic studies single long arc in the α_2 -zone was obtained. Elinin was distinguished immunologically from the other previously recognized proteins of red cell ghosts, S protein.

Résumé

L'auteur étudie avec une méthode immunochimique la structure antigénique de l'élinine des membranes érythrocytaires humaines normales. A l'aide de sera anti-élinine de lapin on retrouve deux fractions antigéniques. L'immunoelectrophorèse comparative révèle une ligne de précipitation courbe et étirée dans la zone des α_2 . L'élinine se distingue immunologiquement de la protéine S décelée auparavant dans le stroma érythrocytaire.

Zusammenfassung

Die Antigenstruktur von Elinin aus Membranen normaler menschlicher Erythrozyten wurde immunochemisch untersucht. Als Hilfe von Serum gegen Elinin immunisierter Kaninchen wurden zwei immunologisch nachweisbare Fraktionen gefunden. Das vergleichende Immunelektrophorese ergab eine langgestreckte Bogenlinie in der α_2 -Zone. Elinin unterscheidet sich immunologisch von dem früher nachgewiesenen S-Protein des Erythrozytenstromas.

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International Review of Tropical Medicine. Edited by David Richard Lumsden. Vol. 2, 1963. Academic Press Inc., New York, N. Y. 423 p. Price: \$ 16.00.

Most of the articles in this volume concern tropical medicine, but the following are of interest for hematologists: *Abnormal Hemoglobins and Thalassemias in Asia* are discussed by F. VELLA (Singapore); abnormal variants of hemoglobin A and F are common in Asia. In the western parts S is most frequent, in the northern parts of Asia H is the most common. - R. S. BAAY (Harbel, Liberia) contributes an article on the "Exocytrocytic Phase of Malaria Parasites" which is now considered by malaria experts of great importance for the occurrence of relapses. - H. D. RABSON (Johannesburg, South Africa) writes briefly on Porphyria. - Charmingly written is a chapter by Sir PETER MANSON-BASEL entitled "The Story of Malaria: The Drains and the 'Acres'" It brings many personal and other not generally known details, short sketches of the classical researchers of Malaria who were the protagonists and main discoverers. Their "foibles and quibbles and the rivalries" are here simply documented.

G. ROSSIGNOL New York

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